AL-1691

AGRI-NEWS

September 2, 1985

For immediate release

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September 2, 1985

For immediate release

Applications for Farming for the Future funding invited

Alberta Agriculture invites interested researchers to apply for Farming for the Future Research Program funds. The deadline for application is November 1, 1985.

Farming for the Future is a commitment of the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund to support agricultural research of benefit to Alberta.

To be eligible for research program awards, projects must have the potential to increase agricultural productivity and improve net farm income as well as enhance the long-term viability of Alberta's agricultural industry. Researchers must have demonstrated competence to carry out a formal agricultural research project.

Project proposals must be submitted on Farming for the Future's new application forms (dated June 1985). Separate forms for new proposals and in-progress projects requiring renewed funding are now being used.

Awards made for the 1986/87 fiscal year will be subject to the revised 1985 Farming for the Future Terms of Reference.

Under another funding program of Farming for the Future, the On-Farm Demonstration Program, funds are available to producers and farm organizations for projects primarily oriented toward demonstrating or testing agricultural technology generated by

(cont'd)

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Applications for Farming for the Future funding invited (cont'd)

Farming for the Future and other research programs. Proposals are reviewed on a year-round basis and should be directed to Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturists, home economists or regional/district specialists.

For application forms or further information contact Research Division, Alberta Agriculture, Room 206, J.G. O'Donoghue building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

- 30 -

Contact:

Dr. James P. Mahone
Director
Research Division
427-1382

September 2, 1985

For immediate release

Seed treatment of winter wheat and fall rye

Seeding of winter wheat and fall rye will be in full swing during the first two weeks of September. According to Ieuan Evans with Alberta Agriculture's plant industry division, protection against seedling disease is particularly important in late plantings under cool to cold soil conditions if the crop is to be vigorous enough to survive over the winter.

Fall rye seed should always be treated with a fungicide since rye seed is the most susceptible cereal to seed decay. Maneb or carbathiin: thiram would be suitable to help control seedling disease, says Dr. Evans.

If stem smut has been a problem in fall rye then carbathiin should be included in the seed treatment for control. The varieties Antelope, Frontier, Puma and Cougar in particular are susceptible to stem smut. Kodiak, Rymin and Sangaste are resistant to this disease.

Fungicide treatments of winter wheat seed will reduce losses in yield and quality by controlling seedling blight and smuts. Carbathiin fungicide will control loose smut but protectant fungicides such as thiram (in-combination with carbathiin) or any maneb containing formulation will control bunt and seedling blights.

- 30 -

Contact:

Ieuan Evans
427-5350

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September 2, 1985

For immediate release

Wean calves early and increase net returns

Calf producers faced with a shortage of pasture because of the dry conditions should consider weaning their calves earlier and selling them later at one of Alberta's preconditioned calf sales.

Dwight Karren, Alberta Agriculture's regional livestock specialist at Lethbridge, recommends such action because weaning calves earlier will reduce the grazing pressure on the range, remove the nutritional stress on the cow, and, if the calves are preconditioned, increase the weight and the selling price of the calves.

"Weaning the calves and removing them from the pasture increases the amount of pasture available to maintain the cow herd," says Mr. Karren. Cows with sucking calves have a higher nutritional requirement than dry cows. When sufficient grass is not available to maintain this requirement, cows draw heavily on body reserves. Cows that are thin going into winter require more feed just to maintain their weight. If sufficient feed to gain weight isn't available, cows remain thin throughout the winter. At breeding, thin cows are harder to breed which results in more open cows and later calves the following year.

One of the drawbacks of early-weaning calves is marketing the calves. Usually the highest calf prices occur in the later fall when more eastern buyers are on the market. Preconditioning the calves, says Mr. Karren, gives more marketing flexibility. The timing of calf marketing can then be judged on the basis of calf prices and not on the condition of the pasture and the cows.

(cont'd)

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Wean calves early and increase net returns (cont'd)

Mr. Karren says that it's doubtful that even in good years fall gains of sucking calves are optimized. Because grass quality and quantity are reduced and cows' milk declines, it is difficult to maintain good calf gains.

Mr. Karren reports that fall calves sucking British-type cows on native pasture in southern Alberta have been observed to be only gaining about one-half pound per day. Weaned calves fed good quality roughage and about five pounds of grain per day can gain one and one-half to two pounds per day over a 30-day period. It is, therefore, quite possible for weaned calves to gain a pound a day more than unweaned calves during this period of time.

Preconditioning calves can increase net returns by increasing the weight of the calves and the calf price. For example, Mr. Karren says a 400-pound preconditioned calf that gains a net of one and one-half pounds per day over a 40-day preconditioned period increases returns by $48 per calf on an 80-cent calf market. If that calf is then sold at a five-cent per pound premium because it is preconditioned, returns are increased a further $23 for a total increased return of $71 per calf. A survey among producers of preconditioned calves in 1984 showed the cost of preconditioning to be $40.71 per calf.

"If we assume costs are as in this example," says Mr. Karren, "then the net return to preconditioning would be $30.29 per calf." He goes on to point out that this example doesn't include any extra return from the cow herd because of reduced grazing costs, reduced winter feed costs, nor does it include any increased returns from a higher weaning percentage or heavier weaning weights.

(cont'd)

Wean calves early and increase net returns (cont'd)

Calf producers wishing to take advantage of the preconditioning program for their early weaned calves should make the necessary arrangements through their local veterinarian and district agriculturist.

- 30 -

Contact:

Dwight Karren
381-5106

September 2, 1985

For immediate release

New publication examines winter wheat production in Alberta

Winter wheat has been an important crop of the chinook zone of southern Alberta for many years. With the introduction of improved varieties and better production management techniques, winter wheat is now being grown in many other areas of western Canada.

A new Alberta Agriculture publication, Winter Wheat Production, identifies the successful production practices being used by Alberta's most experienced producers.

The information was compiled and analyzed through a survey conducted in the late fall and early winter of 1983-84. "Twenty above-average producers were individually selected by their district agriculturist to answer 131 questions dealing with all aspects of their winter wheat production practices," says Murray McLelland, supervisor of cereal crops at the Lacombe district office.

Readers are challenged to compare their production practices with those outlined in this publication. Although the survey information is mainly subjective, clear trends are indicated when large differences in percentage occur.

(cont'd)

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New publication examines winter wheat production in Alberta (cont'd)

The latest research results and recommended production practices from the professional community are also presented in the publication.

Copies of Winter Wheat Production, Agdex 112/20-3 are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices and the Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

- 30 -

Contact:

Murray McLelland
782-4641

September 2, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta horse improvement program

Alberta Agriculture's horse industry branch, in cooperation with the participating breed associations, is conducting the 11th annual Alberta Horse Improvement Program this month.

Les Burwash, supervisor of the horse industry branch, says the program is designed to assist in identifying and promoting superior Alberta-bred horses, leading Alberta trainers, and top Alberta breeders within each breed. Criteria for selection at this special breeders program are "form as it relates to function" with major emphasis on athletic ability and soundness.

The program will be held in Red Deer at the Westerner Exhibition Grounds.

Participation by breeds is as follows:

Saturday, September 21	-Arabians, Partbred Arabians
Sunday, September 22	-Saddlebreds, Morgans, Pintos, Welsh Ponies, Hunters and Walkers
Saturday, September 28	- Quarter Horses
Sunday, September 29	- Appaloosas and Paints

Nominations to the program close September 6, 1985.

(cont'd)

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Alberta horse improvement program (cont'd)

For more information contact the horse industry banch at #205, 2003 McKnight Blvd., N.E., Calgary, T2E 6L2, telephone 291-4596 or 905, O.S. Longman Building, 6909-116 Street, Edmonton, T6H 4P2, telephone 427-8905.

- 30 -

Contact:

Les Burwash
291-4596

September 2, 1985

For immediate release

35th anniversary of rat control program

The Norway rat was declared a pest in Alberta on September 1, 1950, in response to an overland invasion of rats from the east, and a confirmed infestation of rats on the Alberta border near Alsask. This was the beginning of the most successful rat control program in the world.

Today, 35 years later, Alberta still enjoys a rat-free status thanks to the concern and effort of thousands of citizens and hundreds of pest control personnel. Alberta's rat-free status is shared only by Western Australia and the country of Kuwait, on the Persian Gulf.

According to Mike Dorrance, supervisor of problem wildlife with Alberta Agriculture, the rat control program operates much as it did in the late 1950s. Rat control specialists are employed by seven rural municipalities along the Alberta/Saskatchewan border. These specialists inspect every premise from one to three times each year in a 29-kilometre-wide control zone from Cold Lake to the United States border. About 7,000 inspections are made and around 20,000 pounds of Warfarin rat bait are used each year.

"From 70 to 150 rat infestations are found in the control zone each year," says Dr. Dorrance. Each infestation may contain from 1 to 1,000 rats. Most infestations (85 per cent) are within 13 kilometres (8 miles) of the Alberta/Saskatchewan border. Every effort is made to exterminate rats when they are found. Rats are destroyed with poison, carbon monoxide gas, or by shooting. Smaller buildings are frequently moved and derelict buildings are burned whenever possible.

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35th anniversary of rat control program (cont'd)

Overland movement of rats occurs only from the east. Rats must live in association with man and his structures. Thus, rats cannot survive and move across Alberta's sparsely populated prairie in the south, mountains in the west or forests in the north.

Norway rats usually do not survive transport by rail or truck because rats require water every day. However, from one to seven infestations are found each year within the interior of Alberta; most consist of only one or two rats. These infestations are found because of reports by concerned citizens.

Rat sightings and suspected infestations should be reported to the local pest control inspectors, agricultural fieldmen, or agricultural personnel. All suspected sightings will be investigated as soon as possible.

- 30 -

Contact:

Mike Dorrance
427-5370

September 2, 1985

For immediate release

Lethbridge 4-H'er awarded scholarship

The recipient of the 1985 Lethbridge and district 4-H beef committee scholarship is Andrew Koot of Lethbridge.

Andrew Koot

Andrew will be attending Lethbridge community college this fall in the first year of the agricultural technology program. He has been an active 4-H member since 1978, and is a member of both the Coaldale 4-H swine club and the Lethbridge - Coaldale 4-H Beef Club.

The Lethbridge and district 4-H beef committee scholarship is a $250 scholarship awarded annually to a student studying agriculture or a related field. Reference is given to 4-H'ers whose clubs have shown in the Lethbridge and district 4-H show.

For more information on Alberta 4-H scholarships, contact your regional 4-H specialist, district home economist or the 4-H branch of Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton.

- 30 -

Contact:

Elizabeth Webster
427-2541

September 2, 1985

For immediate release

Cattle situation and outlook

Slaughter cattle supplies in both Canada and Alberta at the end of June were significantly reduced as a result of large exports of live animals and higher than usual cow slaughter in Alberta.

"Alberta cow slaughter for the year up to July 20 has been 36 per cent above year ago levels," says Gordon Herrington, livestock analyst with Alberta Agriculture. Overall, it's estimated that net disappearance of cattle for the year, up to the end of June, is nine per cent or approximately 72,000 head higher this year in Alberta, he adds.

The high rate of cow slaughter is expected to continue. To some extent, the feed situation is also expected to increase feedlot placement towards the end of the third quarter and fall weaning will be earlier than usual.

In Alberta, within-province demand for feeder calves is expected to be more moderate. But the Saskatchewan two-part program for livestock in drought-affected areas, should support the value of feeders and reduce feed costs. Out of province demand should also be price supportive. It's not expected that feeder prices will drop below price levels during the fall of 1984.

(cont'd)

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Cattle situation and outlook (cont'd)

Fed cattle prices are expected, late in the third quarter, to rally to the $75 to $77 per cwt level for A1, 2 steers in Alberta and generally apply for most of the fourth quarter. Ample supplies of competitive meats during this period and continuing price pressure arising from wide producer-retailer price spreads will limit further price increases for producers.

- 30 -

Contact:

Gordon Herrington
427-5376

September 2, 1985

For immediate release

Hog situation and outlook

Alberta hog prices are expected to follow the same trend as those in the United States. However, basis change, that is the differential between equivalent Alberta and U.S. prices, can be extremely variable during the third and fourth quarters and affect Alberta price trends, says Alberta Agriculture's livestock analyst, Gordon Herrington.

Future U.S. hog output is expected to decline in the fourth quarter and the first quarter of 1986. In Canada, however, hog production is still expanding and the expectation is for domestic slaughter to increase and export volumes to decline.

U.S. output expectations should cause prices to decline from the mid U.S. $40 per cwt levels of early August. Although these prices are expected to recover in the fourth quarter, they shouldn't exceed the mid U.S. $40 level since competitive meat supplies will still be ample for demand.

Price differentials between Alberta and Omaha should narrow toward the end of the third quarter, then reach their widest point late in the fourth quarter, possibly $20 per cwt. Prices for Alberta hogs should range around the $60 per cwt level by the end of the third quarter and only recover to the $65 per cwt level by the end of the fourth quarter.

- 30 -

Contact:

Gordon Herrington
427-5376

September 2, 1985

For immediate release

Potato situation and outlook

Increased acreage and generally good growing conditions are expected to boost potato production in Alberta, Canada and the United States, says Alberta Agriculture special commodities analyst, Fred Boyce.

"Nearly all the major growing areas of North America have seeded more potatoes," he reports. Yields, based on initial harvesting of early varieties, should equal or exceed the long term average thus increasing output.

Table potato prices are declining in response to the anticipated surplus. Processing and seed requirements are not expected to show much change and prices should remain similar to last year's mainly as a result of processing contracts. Fresh potato values in Alberta are lower than a year ago as a result of increased competition and sharply lower prices in the U.S. A large crop will continue to cause table potato prices to decrease.

- 30 -

Contact:

Fred Boyce
427-5383

September 2, 1985

For immediate release

Fresh vegetable situation and outlook

According to Fred Boyce, Alberta Agriculture's special commodities analyst, vegetable production in Alberta is expected to show a dramatic rebound from the weather reduced 1984 crop.

Seeded acreage, as reported to the Alberta Fresh Vegetable Marketing Board has reached 3,929 acres, an increase of 28 per cent.

Locally grown vegetables are currently being marketed in volume at prices similar to last year's. The major storage vegetable crops are developing well and should provide ample supplies well into the winter months.

- 30 -

Contact:

Fred Boyce
427-5383

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AGRI-NEWS

September 9, 1985

For immediate release

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September 9, 1985

For immediate release

Sheep summary and outlook

In Alberta lamb slaughter for the first six months of 1985 decreased by 11 per cent from the same period last year.

Overall, there are reduced supplies throughout North America reflecting the reduced availability of live animals for slaughter. "Inventory reports suggest that supplies are tight and we can expect reduced slaughter numbers to continue into 1986," reports Marilyn Johnson, market economist with Alberta Agriculture.

During the second quarter of this year lamb prices across Canada traded significantly higher than last year's record prices. In Alberta the second quarter price range for lambs sold at Lambco at Innisfail averaged $87.66 - $90.66 per cwt for good quality 95 to 105 pound animals.

Peak prices have been reached for this year with the market high in April. As more lambs come to market in the third quarter, prices will soften. It's expected that Alberta slaughter lamb prices will gradually strengthen in September to an average of between $85 - $88 per cwt. Third quarter prices are forecast to follow the seasonal pattern of increasing gradually as the year progresses.

- 30 -

Contact:

Marilyn Johnson
427-4002

September 9, 1985

For immediate release

New publication on pricing silage

Silage is difficult to price because it's not traded in a market where price information is made available to others, says Craig Edwards with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch. Most trades are made from one farm to another and the traders do not make public the prices that closed their deals, he adds.

To help Alberta farmers interested in buying or selling silage, Alberta Agriculture has prepared the factsheet, **Pricing Silage**. The publication demonstrates a method of pricing silage based on its feed value relative to the cost of comparable feeds for which price information is available.

"The procedure involves determining the feed value as a source of energy, a source of protein or a combination of both," says Mr. Edwards. When used as a source of energy, silage feed value is based on its estimated digestible energy content and moisture content as compared with barley.

When used for energy and protein, the protein feed value can be compared with protein costs of canola meal. Ask Alberta Agriculture's soil and feed testing laboratory to provide a feed value analysis when submitting your silage for testing, suggests Mr. Edwards.

Since actual feed tests will provide more accurate results than estimates of feed value and moisture content, feed testing is the only reliable basis to use in establishing a feed value for silage.

The procedure explained in **Pricing Silage** also involves estimating:

1) the effect of moisture content on silage feed value

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New publication on pricing silage (cont'd)

2) the value of harvested silage at the silo

3) silage storage losses

4) the value of harvested silage in the field

5) silage transportation costs

6) value of a standing crop.

The information and methods described in the publication will be useful for those farmers considering growing, buying or selling silage and those who were unintentionally forced to harvest silage because of crop damage. The publication is available from Alberta Agriculture district offices; Publications Office, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6; or from the farm business management branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0, telephone 556-4240.

- 30 -

Contact:

Craig Edwards
556-4248

September 9, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta and the elm tree : a look back

The struggle to keep Dutch elm disease from invading Alberta has been going on since 1975. Although we've been successful so far, the need to maintain an awareness of the danger of an uncontrolled outbreak of this disease still exists.

The American or white elm, native to all provinces east of Alberta, was introduced here around a century ago. Today, it is one of the most visible trees in the urban landscape. Cities and towns have used this tree extensively for boulevard and street planting and it has performed well.

The upright vase shape of the more mature specimen fits in beautifully with adjacent structures. The tree can withstand periods of drought, requires little attention as to soil fertility, and insect problems are minor.

The uprising branches cause problems, especially during the earlier years of shaping, by splitting from the main trunk. However, such problems can be overcome by patiently pruning the tree. As with any tall growing tree in the urban development, roots from elm may cause occasional problems with the sewer system, but the elm is less troublesome than poplars. The spring seeds are small and disappear readily and leaf litter problems are minor. Road salts which are applied during the winter months do less damage to elms than most other types of trees.

Until 1975 the City of Edmonton established around 40,000 elms as boulevard trees. Most of these trees were American elms while the remainder were Siberian elms.

(cont'd)

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Alberta and the elm tree : a look back (cont'd)

According to Herman Oosterhuis, supervisor with the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre, there's one elm tree for every 10 residents of the capital of Alberta. Similar figures are probably valid for other cities and towns throughout Alberta. On that basis, it can be estimated that there are 150,000 elms planted throughout Alberta along the streets of our urban centers. Through shelterbelt tree distribution to farmers, there were a half million elms (both American and Siberian) distributed before 1976.

In 1975, the rosy picture for the use of elms changed dramatically. The advance of the killer disease, Dutch elm disease, was closing in on Alberta. This disease, introduced from Europe, first devastated elm stands in the eastern United States in the 1930's. It entered eastern Canada around 1940, wiping out native elms from Ontario to Nova Scotia. In 1974, the disease was confirmed in Manitoba and, during the last 10 years, the native elm trees along the river courses of that province have been dying out. Much of our current information on this disease now comes from that province.

Dr. Evans, plant pathologist with Alberta Agriculture's crop protection branch, cites the threat of a possible outbreak of this disease in Alberta as the reason for Alberta Agriculture's amendment to The Agricultural Pest Act in 1978 with a Dutch elm disease control regulation. By this addition to the act, the importation of elm trees into the province was restricted.

Dutch elm disease is caused by a fungus, which chokes off the sap transportation through the tree. This fungus is spread from elm to elm by one of two species of elm bark beetles that feed on the elm trees.

(cont'd)

Alberta and the elm tree : a look back (cont'd)

To date, neither species of the two bark beetles has been found in Alberta. Since 1976, annual surveys have been carried out to find any of these beetles.

During 1977 to 1980, publicity was used to increase knowledge of Dutch elm disease. Posters were printed and exhibited, telling the public about the danger of the disease entering Alberta. A Dutch elm disease action committee met annually to plan strategy in case an outbreak should occur.

To aid field staff and tree nursery staff identify Dutch elm disease, annual tree pruning courses are conducted at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre. The course teaches details of disease recognition as well as proper pruning techniques.

According to George Grainger, director of the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre, the planting of elm trees in Alberta has been greatly reduced during the past 10 years. "The tree is no longer distributed as a shelterbelt tree," he notes. Cities and towns have switched over to "safer" trees such as green ash, black ash, little leaved linden and others.

After 10 years of virtually no response from the disease or of finding the insect vector, the use of elm in landscaping is increasing. It's still not permissible to import the tree nor will it be given in mass distribution, but as long as the plants are grown in Alberta, they are safe to plant, says Mr. Grainger.

The American elm is a beautiful and stately tree which in light of present information should now be used more often in large scale plantings in the province.

- 30 -

Contact:

Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre 973-3351
Crop Protection Branch 427-5350

September 9, 1985

For immediate release

Manure gases can be dangerous

Manure storages should be regarded with extreme respect because of the gases produced by fermenting animal wastes. These gases can result in great financial loss or even tragic loss of life, says Brian West, waste management specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

Hydrogen sulphide, H_2S the most toxic manure gas, is notable for its characteristic rotten egg odor. However, human ability to smell this gas is not a reliable indicator because of the masking effect of other manure odors and the fact that workers continuously exposed to manure odors become desensitized to them. H_2S is extremely toxic to animals and humans even at relatively low concentrations. In high concentrations, it will lead to almost instantaneous poisoning and death.

As long as the liquid manure remains undisturbed, H_2S is usually barely detectable in animal housing units. However, even light agitation of stored manure can cause large quantities of H_2S to be released. The level of concentration appears to be related to the length the manure has been stored and the degree of agitation. The greatest risk is when emptying storage pits within the barn space. "During this time concentrations in the pit head space and above the slats can reach lethal levels within minutes," says Mr. West. With a specific gravity of 1.2 times the density of air, H_2S may accumulate in manure pits and in low areas of the manure system, he adds.

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Manure gases can be dangerous (cont'd)

Carbon dioxide (CO_2) is also a product of stored manure. CO_2 is not toxic or odorous but since it's much heavier than air, it may settle in manure pits. CO_2 will therefore act as simple asphyxiant.

Ammonia (NH_3) is the gas with the typical pungent odor familiar to most farmers. While not usually found in concentrations high enough to be acutely toxic, it does act as an irritant to the respiratory system and can cause health problems with prolonged exposures. Ammonia is lighter than air so usually disperses through pit openings and the ventilation system.

The final major gas produced in manure storages is methane (CH_4). Methane is a colorless, odorless and nontoxic gas. It is explosive at critical concentrations. Since CH_4 is lighter than air, it has been known to collect in headspaces of manure storages.

Here are some recommendations for avoiding toxic levels of manure gases:

1. Do not enter a manure storage pit without first completely ventilating it or wearing a self-contained breathing apparatus.
2. When agitating under-slat storages within the barn, provide maximum ventilation rates. Open doors, windows or remove livestock where practical. The major gas release occurs when the stored manure is agitated.
3. Ensure that storages outside the barn are gas trapped to prevent gases from entering the housing area.
4. Do not trust a pit fan. It may help but it cannot be trusted to remove all the gases released from agitated manure. A pit fan's primary value is in removing odors on a day-to-day basis.

(cont'd)

Manure gases can be dangerous (cont'd)

5. Stress to all farm workers the extreme hazards of manure gases.
6. Manhole covers should be secured with chains to prevent them from falling into the pit. They should be heavy enough to make their removal by children impossible. All pumping equipment should be easily removable from pits for maintenance to remove all necessity of entering pits.
7. Gravity drain lines should be designed with clean-outs to provide safe access should plugging occur.

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Contact:

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340-5322

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September 9, 1985

For immediate release

Survey of disabled farmers completed

Statistics compiled by the farm safety program of Alberta Agriculture indicate that accidents occur on farms every day. Some of these accidents result in injuries and fatalities, others in damage to property.

According to Solomon Kyeremanteng, manager of the farm safety program, the number of farmers who become permanently disabled and continue to farm has become a major concern to some farm organizations.

In response to this concern, the Alberta Women's Institutes in cooperation with the Women of Unifarm conducted a survey of disabled farmers in the spring and summer of 1984.

"The purpose of the survey was to find out the number of disabled farmers in Alberta, the types of disabilities and how they occurred and how these farmers were coping with their disabilities," says Beryl Ballhorn with the Alberta Women's Institutes.

There were 236 respondents to the survey, 59 per cent of whom were able to farm. Fifty-two per cent of the respondents were amputees and 20 per cent were parapalegic.

The most common cause (42%) of the disabilities was accidents involving farm machinery. A third of the disabilities were caused by illnesses including polio, heart disease and multiple sclerosis.

Harvesting machinery was the number one type of machinery involved in accidents. The power take off was the second most common.

"The survey was instrumental in planning the Second Western Regional Disabled Farmers Conference this spring," says Mr. Kyeremanteng.

(cont'd)

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Survey of disabled farmers completed (cont'd)

During the conference, disabled farmers discussed fund raising activities to help them adapt farm machinery to accommodate their disabilities. They also discussed the development of a program of safety among all farmers.

Copies of the survey are available from the farm safety branch, Alberta Agriculture, 2nd Floor, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

- 30 -

Contact:

Solomon Kyeremanteng
427-2186

Beryl Ballhorn
352-4548

September 9, 1985

For immediate release

Agri-food exporting seminar

"Exports : the agri-food challenge" is the theme of a two-day seminar sponsored by the Expert Committee on Marketing and Trade, an arm of the Canadian Agricultural Sciences Coordinating Committee.

On October 7 and 8, representatives from the agriculture and food exporting field will share their knowledge and experience through presentations, workshops and panel discussions.

Speakers include Dr. J.L. Morris, senior vice-president with Safeway Stores Inc.; Mr. H.B. McEwen, deputy minister, Alberta Agriculture; Alan Levy, Fletchers Fine Foods Ltd.; and Dennis Browne, director general with the agriculture, food and fish branch of the Department of External Affairs.

A major component of the seminar will be specialized marketing workshops by product and geographic area. Product workshops include: livestock and poultry, meat products, dairy products, horticultural products, processed foods, and oilseeds and pulses. Geographic workshops will be broken down into the areas of: the United States, Japan, other Pacific Rim countries, Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

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Agri-food exporting seminar (cont'd)

The $100 registration fee, payable to Canadian Agri-Food Seminars, can be sent to : Agri-Food Seminars, Marketing Services Division, Marketing and Economics Branch, Agriculture Canada, 930 Carling Avenue, Room 535, Ottawa, K1A OC5.

For more information contact: Conrad Paquette, telephone (613) 995-5880 or Don Daintrey, telephone (403) 483-5531.

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Contact:

Conrad Paquette
(613) 995-5880

Don Daintrey
(403) 483-5531

September 9, 1985

For immediate release

Two 4-H members receive Pennington Memorial scholarships

Tracy Pfannmuller

Cathryne Wood

Tracy Pfannmuller of Mayerthorpe and Cathryne Wood of Barrhead are this year's recipients of the Pennington Memorial scholarship.

This scholarship is awarded annually to two present or former 4-H members studying agriculture or related fields. Preference is given to applicants from the Barrhead and Mayerthorpe districts.

Tracy Pfannmuller has been a 4-H member in the Lobstick 4-H Beef Club and a number of 4-H clothing clubs over the last nine years. This year she was 4-H council representative for the Lobstick 4-H Beef Club. Tracy has taken part in all 4-H programs and was named the winner of this year's provincial 4-H public speaking competition. She was also named "Miss Angus" for

(cont'd)

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Two 4-H members receive Pennington Memorial scholarships (cont'd)

1985 by the Angus Association. Tracy will be attending Lakeland College this fall in her first year of the animal health technology program.

Cathryne Wood was a 4-H member for eight years; four years with the west Barrhead 4-H Beef Club and four with the G & S 4-H Multi Club. Cathryne took part in many 4-H beef heifer shows, and won the champion Angus heifer award at the provincial 4-H beef heifer show at Bashaw in 1977 and 1978. For the last six years she has been working for farms and cattle companies showing, maintaining and preparing cattle for sales. Cathryne is the director of the National Young Canadian Simmentaler Committee. She will be taking her first year of agriculture management at Olds College.

Each Pennington Memorial Scholarship is worth $1,000.

For more information on Alberta 4-H scholarships, contact your regional 4-H specialist, district home economist or write to: 4-H scholarship program, 4-H branch, Alberta Agriculture, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

- 30 -

Contact:

Elizabeth Webster
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OCT 1985

September 16, 1985

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September 16, 1985

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Alberta farm water grant program

A three-year $16 million program to assist Alberta farmers and ranchers who are encountering water shortages, was announced on September 6, 1985, by Bob Bogle, Alberta's minister of utilities and telecommunications. Financial assistance will be provided to construct water transmission facilities for domestic and stock-watering purposes. The program is retroactive to April 1, 1985.

This program will complement both Alberta environment's drought emergency water supply program and Alberta Agriculture's farm water assistance program by getting the water from the source (river, stream, developed well) to its point of use (dugout or cistern).

The province will cost-share with the farmers and ranchers on a 75/25 basis. The funding limit will be based on $20,000 per serviced farm unit ($15,000 government sources - $5,000 owner). Funding from other government sources including Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA), will be applied towards the provincial contribution, thus maintaining the owner's 25 per cent responsibility.

The program will be administered by utilities and telecommunications. Information and applications are also available through district agricultural offices.

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Contact:

Dave Shillabeer
Municipal Utilities Division
Utilities and Telecommmunications
(403) 422-4591

September 16, 1985

For immediate release

Moisture meter conversion charts on barley adjusted

To avoid a confrontation with their local elevator agent, farmers should be aware that the Canadian Grain Commission has recently adjusted the conversion charts for moisture meters used on barley.

These charts are used to convert moisture meter readings to percentages of moisture in grain, in this case barley, at a fixed temperature. For example, using the old conversion chart, barley which reads 24 on the moisture meter has 14.6 per cent moisture; using the new chart it has 14.8 per cent moisture (assuming 11°C in both cases).

According to Glen Binnington with the Alberta Grain Commission, the net result of the change is that farmers will find that their grain is damper than they suspect. A farmer, using his own moisture meter, and drying to the level that was previously 14.8 per cent moisture (the cut off for dry grain) will discover that under the new conversion chart his grain is tough.

The Canadian Grain Commission made the adjustment to accommodate changes in the varietal mix of barleys being grown on the prairies. According to the commission, the changes in kernal size and shape and other qualities of the new barleys has caused them to underestimate the moisture content over the past four to five years.

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Contact:

Glen Binnington
427-7329

September 16, 1985

For immediate release

Evaluating the risk of preconditioning

By preconditioning his calves, the cow-calf operator has the potential to significantly increase his dollar return. However, there are also increased risks involved with weaning, starting calves on feed, and selling on a late fall market, says Brian Harris, coordinator of the Alberta preconditioning program. The information from the 1984 preconditioning report gives some evaluation of this risk.

The major concern among many cattlemen is death loss while weaning and starting calves on feed. Seventy-five per cent of the producers surveyed, reported no death losses at all in over 2400 calves they preconditioned. The remaining 25 per cent of the producers had some problems. The overall average death loss was 0.7 per cent. The major cause of this loss was identified as bloat. While these losses occurred in only 12 per cent of the herds, they were relatively severe in those affected. The highest death loss was over 4 per cent in one herd which experienced an extreme problem. The other losses were related to pneumonia problems, and again these tended to occur in outbreaks in a few herds rather than in all the herds.

Producers should be aware that a mixture of one-half grain and one-half alfalfa hay is one of the highest risk feeds for bloat. This danger can be avoided or reduced by using a grass hay and restricting the hay while starting the calves on a grain ration. This will help to ensure that the grain consumption is uniform throughout the group. Mixed rations of chopped hay and grain are good, provided there is a minimum of fine particles in the mix. Cattle on silage

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rations normally have fewer bloat problems because they can be well mixed and normally have fewer fine particles.

Market risk is also a concern to some producers. If we look at average fall calf prices over the last four years some trends can be seen. The four year average monthly price only varied by three cents per pound between the high and the low, but some individual years had fluctuations as great as 15 cents per pound. The highest average prices were paid in December, followed by September; the lowest prices were in October. There was a substantial decrease in price from September to December in only one year in the last four years. The other three years showed price increases. Preconditioned sales are usually held late in the season in November and December. Calf prices in these months are usually higher than in September and October when most of the regular calves are sold.

The risk of preconditioning appears to be low provided the producer is able to minimize the stress of weaning, avoid mixing different groups of calves, and exercise caution when starting the calves on feed. These precautions should keep calf loss to a minimum. The market fluctuations are hard to control or predict, but have normally favored the late in fall preconditioned sales.

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Contact:

Brian Harris
Coordinator, Preconditioning Program
886-4406

September 16, 1985

For immediate release

1985 haymaking custom charges

Custom rates charged for haymaking this year have increased compared with 1984, according to the annual Alberta Agriculture survey of custom haying operators. The survey was conducted by the statistics branch in cooperation with the farm business management branch in August, 1985.

The following tables summarize the data.

Cutting and Conditioning ($ per acre)

Region	Most Common 1984	Range 1985	Most Common 1985
South	$8-$10	$6.50-$12	$7-$11
Central	$6-$7	$6-$10	$7-$8
North	$8	$5-$10	$8-$9

Baling - Round ($ per bale)

Region	Most Common 1984	Range 1985	Most Common 1985
South	$6-$6.50	$5-$10	$6-$7
Central	$5	$5-$6.50	$6
North	$5-$5.50	$4-$7	$4-$5

	Most Common 1984	Range 1985	Most Common 1985
Baling - Square (¢/bale)	30¢	25¢ - 45¢	30¢ - 40¢
Stacking & Hauling (¢/bale)	25¢ - 30¢	20¢ - 55¢	30¢ - 40¢

(cont'd)

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1985 haymaking custom charges (cont'd)

Gerd Andres of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch says that charges vary among custom operators because of factors such as the type of machinery and its produce size, overhead costs, the amount of travel involved and the terrain. He reports that baling and stacking of square bales ranged from 50¢ to 85¢ per bale and that cutting, baling and stacking of square bales ranged from $1 to $1.30 per bale.

Long distance hay hauling charges are summarized below.

Long Distance Hay Hauling

(23-43 round bales/load or 600-780 square bales/load)

	1984	1985
Under 100 miles	$2.25-$2.75/loaded mile	$2-$3/loaded mile
	$5.50-$11/round bale	$4-$7.50/round bale
	$.50-$.80/square bale	$50/hr
	$13-$22/Ton	
100-200 miles	$2.30-$3.00/loaded mile	$2-$3/loaded mile
	$.85/square bale*	$7.50-$15/round bale
	$35/ton*	
Over 200 miles	$2.75/loaded mile*	$2-$3/loaded mile
	$1.25/square bale*	$14 + /round bale*
	$45/ton*	

* One report

(cont'd)

1985 haymaking custom charges (cont'd)

Mr. Andres reports that the reason for the ranges given above is that charges vary with miles travelled. The most common charge in 1985 for long distance hay hauling is the $2 to $3 per loaded mile.

More information on rates for custom work on farms can be obtained from Alberta Agriculture's district offices; the statistics branch, Edmonton, (427-4018), or the farm business management branch, Olds, (556-4247).

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Contact:

Gerd Andres
556-4247

September 16, 1985

For immediate release

Feeding heifers to target breeding weights

Animal scientists at Texas A and M University have reported that heifers fed to reach a target weight for their breed before they were bred as replacements produced an extra 95 pounds of calf per heifer bred, compared to heifers which were bred at weights 100 pounds short of the breed target weight. "Even though the heavier heifers did consume about $20 more in feed, the extra weaned calf produced over $70 more return per heifer for an increased net back of over $50 per heifer bred," says Ross Gould with Alberta Agriculture's animal management section.

Dr. J.N. Wiltbank, working from Texas A and M University, has reported that since the mid 1960's the pregnancy rate in replacement heifers depends on the number which come in heat early in the breeding season. He and other animal scientists have also shown that the time that heifers show first heat depends on a combination of factors which includes their age, their weight and their breed. In the January 1985 issue of the Journal of Animal Science, he reports the results of a trial to assess the economic implications of feeding heifers to achieve different target weights at the start of the calving season.

Over 200 weaned crossbred heifers were purchased at markets in the fall and sorted into groups weighing either more or less than the average for their breed type. Half of the heifers in each weight group were fed to a target weight of 700 pounds while the other group was fed to weigh only 600 pounds at the start of the breeding season. The 700-pound group consumed an extra 485 pounds of corn but 220 pounds less hay than the group fed to the 600

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pound target weight. At current feed costs, this would mean that the heifers fed to the heavier weight cost about an extra $20 per head for winter feed, says Mr. Gould.

The results showed that heifers in the 700-pound group came in heat an average of 29 days earlier than the 600-pound group. In the 700-pound group, 63 per cent had been in heat and 39 per cent were pregnant after 20 days in the breeding pasture. In the 600-pound group, only 33 per cent of the heifers had been in heat in the first 20 days and 9 per cent of the group was pregnant by that time.

Because of earlier breeding and earlier conception the 700-pound group of heifers weaned calves which were 17 days older and 30 pounds heavier than the 600-pound group. The heavier weaning weight and the increase in the number of calves weaned resulted in an increase of 96 pounds of calf per heifer exposed in the 700-pound group. As noted earlier, the extra feed consumed would cost about $20 at today's prices while the extra weight of calf would result in about over $70 extra income. The net benefit of feeding the heifers to come in heat and breed early was about $50 per head.

Contact:

Ross Gould
427-5335

September 16, 1985

For immediate release

Fall soil sampling - better late than early

Fall soil sampling has become a common practice on many farms. However, sampling prior to October 1 is not recommended because significant changes in the nitrogen and sulfur status of the soil can occur until it has cooled below 7°C. According to Don Laverty of Alberta Agriculture's soil and feed testing lab, sampling as close to freeze up as possible in the fall will give the best prediction of nutrient requirements for spring crops. However, if you delay sampling too long you risk not being able to take samples at all. Sampling frozen soil properly is difficult and therefore not recommended.

Recent research in Alberta has shown that the available nitrogen content of soils sampled in the spring averaged more than 30 pounds per acre higher than soils sampled in the early fall. The difference between late fall and spring sampling was much less, and therefore late fall provided a more reliable estimate of the fertilizer requirement. Samples taken early in the fall tend to overestimate nitrogen fertilizer requirements. Since the available nitrogen supply in the soil can vary greatly between years and seasons, annual sampling after the first of October is recommended as a basis for determining fertilizer requirements.

"Depth of sampling is another important factor in measuring the available supply of nitrogen and sulfur," says Mr. Laverty. These nutrients are very soluble in water and will be moved down the soil profile with fall rains. For this reason sampling fields to 60 cm (24 in.) will give a more reliable estimate of soil nitrogen and sulfur than the common surface (0-15 cm)

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Fall soil sampling - better late than early (cont'd)

sample. Samples should be taken in increments of 0-15 cm, 15-30 cm, 30-60 cm (0-6 in., 6-12 in., 12-24 in.) from at least 15 to 20 sites in each field to provide a representative sample.

A further critical step in soil sampling is mixing and thoroughly air-drying the sample. This is to ensure that the sample is truly representative of all the sites sampled in the field and to stop biological activity in the sample that would cause a change in the nutrient levels.

More complete sampling instructions, special tools for depth sampling, sample boxes and information sheets can be obtained from local district agriculturists and from fertilizer dealers.

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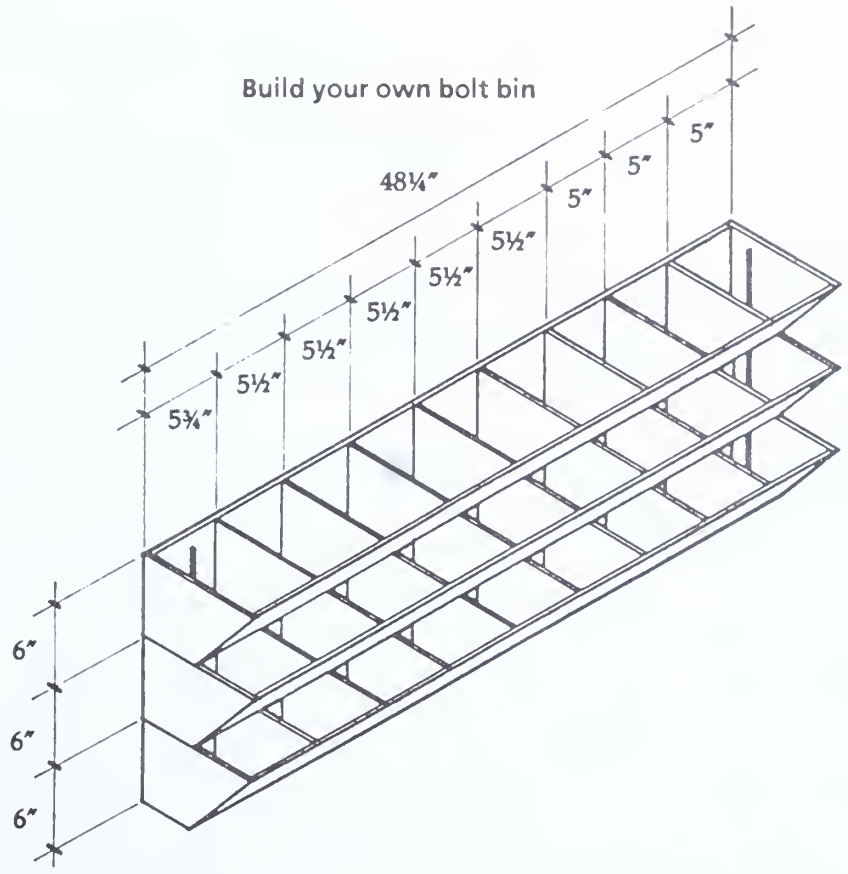
Contact:

Don Laverty
436-9150

September 16, 1985

For immediate release

Build your own bolt bin



Alberta Agriculture's engineering branch has just released a plan for a very functional, easy to build bolt bin. The bins are built in modules and then stacked one on top of the other to make the total unit as large as you like.

Copies of the bolt bin plan (Agdex 780-2) can be ordered from the Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact:

Wendy McLeod
427-2181

September 16, 1985

For immediate release

Update of the farm management data manual

The fourth update of the Farm Management Data Manual has been completed and sent to subscribers of the publication.

"This year most of the pages are new additions instead of updated material," says Alan Small, market research assistant with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch.

Although the manual has been expanded, Mr. Small says, there's been less duplication of other Alberta Agriculture publications. A listing of farm management publications and periodicals by Alberta Agriculture is included with the Farm Management Data Manual.

The manual is intended to be a reference guide. The manual contains information not only for farmers, but also for bankers, professors, and agriculturists.

The two volume-manual sells for $10. Cheques or money orders made payable to the Provincial Treasurer should be sent to the Financial Cashier, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact:

Craig Edwards
556-4248

September 16, 1985

For immediate release

4-H beef club member wins Inga Marr scholarship

Grace Brown of Byemoor has been awarded the Inga Marr Memorial Scholarship for 1985.

A committee made up of Women of Unifarm and 4-H staff selected Grace for her 4-H achievements, community involvement and academic performance.

Grace has been involved with the Big Valley 4-H Beef Club since 1977, as both a member and junior 4-H leader. She has taken part in beef judging competitions, public speaking workshops, camps and exchanges. Grace will be attending the University of Alberta this fall in her first year of the bachelor of education program.

Grace Brown

The Inga Marr Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually to past and present 4-H members with a farm background.

For more information on 4-H scholarships in Alberta, please contact your regional 4-H specialist, district home economist or write to: 4-H scholarship program, 4-H branch, Alberta Agriculture, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact:

Elizabeth Webster
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September 16, 1985

For immediate release

Trade director for Japan and Korea appointed

J. Jackson Gardner, international trade director with Alberta Agriculture's market development branch, has announced the appointment of A.J. (Ab) Barrie to the position of trade director for Japan and Korea. Mr. Barrie will be stationed in Tokyo and will be Alberta Agriculture's first permanent representative abroad.

The decision to post this position in Tokyo was made on the basis of Japan and Korea's position as first and second priority markets for agricultural products in the Pacific Rim. Over the past few years, their imports of agricultural products have risen over 15 per cent annually. It is expected that this trend will continue particularly in Japan, where the agricultural land base makes it impossible to be self-sufficient in food production.

Most of the growth in Japan's agricultural imports over the past 15 years has been in commodities such as grains, oilseeds and feedstuffs. As the market for these products has matured, however, the Japanese have diversified the type and source of processed food products they have been importing. It is these products, i.e., meat and grocery products, upon which Mr. Barrie and his staff will be concentrating their efforts.

Mr. Barrie's Tokyo appointment is meant to complement the Canadian Embassy's ongoing programs by providing specific emphasis on Alberta's priority products and services in this market.

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Trade director for Japan and Korea appointed (cont'd)

Mr. Barrie will bring an extensive and diversified background in marketing agricultural goods and services. Most recently, he was First Secretary Commercial (Agriculture) in the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo, where he had primary responsibility for grains, oilseeds, feedstuffs and a variety of other agricultural products. Prior to his assignment in Tokyo, he was stationed in Edmonton for four years as an agricultural specialist with the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce. During this time he coordinated federal export market development initiatives with Alberta's agriculture industry and Alberta Agriculture. This assignment was preceded by positions in Industry, Trade and Commerce's grain marketing office and Agriculture Canada's production and marketing branch in Ottawa and Vancouver. Mr. Barrie is an agricultural graduate of the University of Manitoba.

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Contact:

Jackson Gardner or Ab Barrie
427-4241

September 16, 1985

For immediate release

Laboratory scientist appointed

David Coyne has been appointed laboratory scientist at Alberta Agriculture's Food Processing Development Centre at Leduc. His appointment was announced by Peter Davies, supervisor of process development.

Mr. Coyne received both his B.Sc. and M.Sc. from Carleton University, Ottawa, and subsequently worked in the area of processed meats formulation as a production foreman and as a laboratory supervisor for a major Canadian meat packer.

In his new position, Mr. Coyne will work closely with the meat packing and processing industry of Alberta. His responsibilities also include providing assistance to processors of cereal products. He will plan, organize and direct process, product and quality control projects with the goal of increasing the capability of Alberta's food processors.

The Food Processing Development Centre is equipped with pilot and laboratory scale food processing and testing equipment and a computer-based information service. The centre's staff will work with industry either at the centre or in the processing plant on technological developments or to solve problems.

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Contact:

David Coyne
986-4793

Alberta Agriculture's Sherwood Park district office has moved

Alberta Agriculture's district office in Sherwood Park is now in a new location. The address is: 9918-102 Street, Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, T8L 2C3, telephone 998-0190.

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AGRI-NEWS

1985

September 23, 1985

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September 23, 1985

For immediate release

1985 silage custom charges

Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch and farm business management branch have released the results of the rates charged for custom silage operations. The survey was conducted in August of this year.

The tables below summarize the results. The rates quoted were gathered mainly in three regions: south (County 26 and M.D. 14), central (Counties 3, 10, 17 and M.D. 31) and north (M.D. 92).

Region	Range 1984	Range 1985
Forage Harvesting		
South	$100/hr*	$5.35/tonne*
Central	-	$3.30-$5.20/tonne
	$60-$180/hr	$80-$110/hr
North	$90/hr*	$90/hr*
Hauling		
South	$40-$65/hr	-
Central	-	$2.50/tonne*
	$30-$40/hr	$33-$50/hr
North	$35/hr*	$35-$45/hr

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1985 silage custom charges (cont'd)

Region	Range 1984	Range 1985
Swathing		
South	$8/ac*	$2.15/tonne*
Central	$5-$6.75/ac	$4-$10/ac
North	$8/ac*	$45/hr*

* One report

According to the survey, the cost for packing ranged from $1-$165 per tonne or $40-$100 per hour (most common $40-$60 per hour).

The survey also quoted the cost of complete and partial custom silage operations. Swathing, harvesting, hauling and packing ranged from $7-$12 per tonne or $175-$190 per hour. Swathing, harvesting and hauling ranged from $8-$11 per tonne with one report quoting $165 per hour.

Gerd Andres, farm management economist with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch, says it is hard to compare this year's charges with last year's because in 1984 most custom operators quoted charges on a per hour basis, while this year the quotes were in various units.

Mr. Andres says that the range in custom silage charges may be due to the type of silage crop, harvesting capacity per hour, the number of hauling units and the size of the tractor used with a dozer blade.

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1985 silage custom charges (cont'd)

More information on rates for custom work on farms can be obtained from Alberta Agriculture's district offices, the statistics branch in Edmonton, (427-4018), or the farm business management branch, Olds, (556-4247).

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Contact:

Gerd Andres
556-4247

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September 23, 1985

For immediate release

Aerating grain

With harvest underway, once again the question arises of how tough or damp grain can be before an aeration unit will dry it down to a safe level. According to Jerome Manchur, district agriculturist at Ryley, the answer to this question depends on several factors including outside air temperature and humidity, fan size, grain temperature, and grain moisture.

To prevent grain from spoiling, most grain should be dried to less than 15.5 per cent. How long damp grain can be stored safely depends on the temperature of the grain. "For example, damp grain with a temperature of 32°C will last only three days without starting to spoil, whereas grain at 7°C will last 13 days," says Mr. Manchur. If you don't already have one, he recommends a thermometer to check the grain temperature.

The length of time you must aerate to dry tough or damp grain not only depends on grain temperature and moisture content but also how warm and dry the outside air is. Generally, the warmer and dryer the outside air the quicker the grain will cool down. "With the kind of weather we've been experiencing lately, it will take quite a lot of aerating to get the moisture percentage down," says Mr. Manchur. Generally, you'd be safe to take grain from 16 to 17 per cent and expect the aeration units to dry it for you, he says.

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Aerating grain (cont'd)

The publication, *Movement of Natural Air Through Grain*, Agdex 736-11, deals with grain aeration in more detail. It's available from Alberta Agriculture district offices and the Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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September 23, 1985

For immediate release

Putting stressed calves on feed

According to Ross Gould, head of the animal management section of Alberta Agriculture's beef cattle and sheep branch, results from research done at the Clayton Livestock Research Centre of the New Mexico State University may show why calves which have been preconditioned before sale may perform better in a feedlot.

The results, which were reported by Dr. Glen Lofgreen and Dr. H.E. Kiesling of the centre, indicate that calves which have been stressed to the point where their in-transit shrink was 9 to 12 per cent of body weight will gain more in the feedlot and use less total feed to reach market weight if they are put on a receiving diet which is high in energy. On the other hand, calves which were unloaded and rested in transit, so that their total shrink was only 6 per cent for the same trip, did just as well in the feedlot whether started on a diet of hay alone, hay plus two pounds of protein supplement, or one containing 75 per cent grain.

Three loads of medium to large frame stock steer calves were trucked from Florida to New Mexico. Two loads went straight through in 40 to 46 hours and shrank from 9 to 12 per cent of their purchase weight. A third load was unloaded and rested in transit before being shipped the final 300 kilometres. The rested group shrank only 6 per cent of their purchase weight.

At the feedlot the calves were divided into three groups and placed on receiving diets for 28 days. One group was fed native grass hay only. A second group received the hay plus two pounds of a 40 per cent protein supplement per day. A third group received a complete mixed

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Putting stressed calves on feed (cont'd)

feed containing 75 per cent grain, with native hay free choice for the first week only

After the initial receiving period each group of calves was again divided. In the finishing phase, half of the steers went directly to a diet of 85 per cent grain. The other half were fed a diet of only 50 per cent grain until they weighed 600 pounds. At 600 pounds they too were switched to the 85 per cent grain diet.

For the "high shrink" calves, fed high grain diets in the finishing period, the rate of gain after the receiving period was the same regardless of the receiving diet. "High shrink" calves which received the 75 per cent grain diet in the first four weeks (receiving period) never lost the extra weight advantage they received from the extra grain in that period.

The "low shrink" calves on the hay diets, however, were able to make up for their lower gains in the receiving period with higher (compensatory) gains in the finishing period. At slaughter all three "low shrink" groups of calves weighed about the same regardless of the receiving diet.

During the first 42 days on feed the groups on receiving diets of hay only, gained about 65 pounds less than those receiving the 75 per cent grain diet, whether they were in the "high shrink" or the "low shrink" group. Similarly the groups on receiving diets of hay and supplements gained about 42 pounds less than those getting the 75 per cent grain receiving diet. It was interesting, however, that in the final finishing period the calves which had less stress (lower shrink) were able to make up nearly all of the lower gains on hay diets, while the heavily stressed calves (high shrink) receiving hay never did recover (show a compensating gain) in the final finishing period. The researchers point out that the effect of high shrink in transit is to reduce the ability of the calves to make compensating gains in the growing - finishing period.

(cont'd)

Putting stressed calves on feed (cont'd)

Lofgreen and Kiesling also suggest that providing a high energy diet in the receiving period appears to be especially important for calves which were severely shrunk in handling and transit, while the amount of energy does not appear to be as critical in the receiving diets of calves which were stressed less.

Ross Gould comments that a further examination of the research data shows the only time that a receiving diet of hay would be better than one containing 75 per cent grain is when the cost of hay is very low with respect to grain and when the calves had relatively little stress before they were placed in the lot.

The data also show that, by feeding the "high shrink" calves a high grain receiving diet, the feed required for a pound of gain will be very little more than that needed by the "low shrink" calves. However, on a receiving diet of hay, the heavily shrunk calves will need over three per cent more feed per pound of gain over the whole feeding period.

Mr. Gould suggests that these results may help to show why calves which have been preconditioned before sale may perform better in a feedlot. The conditioned calves will be under less stress during the receiving period. Other recent research has also shown that calves receiving more energy in the period before handling and shipping also perform better in the feedlot, especially in the first few weeks.

(cont'd)

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Putting stressed calves on feed (cont'd)

More details on the research reported here can be found in the August 1985 issue of the *Journal of Animal Science*, page 320-328 or by contacting Ross Gould, head, animal management section, beef cattle and sheep branch, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6, Phone: (403) 427-5335.

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September 23, 1985

For immediate release

Farmers urged to participate in Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair is scheduled for November 7 to 16, 1985 in Toronto and Alberta Agriculture's field crops branch urges Alberta farmers to participate.

According to Bill Witbeck, supervisor of seed technology at Lacombe, Alberta entries have been extremely successful in the past. "The recognition achieved by those who exhibit their seed at the Royal each year is not only valuable to the exhibitor but for all Albertans," he says.

Once again, Alberta Agriculture will pay the cost of transporting the exhibits to Toronto. In the pedigreed classes of cereals, oilseeds and forage seeds, Alberta Agriculture will provide an honorarium of $150 for any reserve champion prize and $200 for any grand champion prize.

Exhibits may be selected from either the 1984 or 1985 crop year. The entry fee per sample is $2 except in the case of 4-H classes or pedigree seed samples. Sample sizes are 10 lb for commercial cereal seed and 3 lb for commercial forage, mustard and rapeseed. The sample size for pedigreed cereal is 3 lb, which must be taken from a 100 bushel or larger lot. The sample size for pedigreed forage is 2 lb, which must be taken from a 500 lb or larger lot. Seed potato samples must contain 20 tubers that weigh 6 to 7 oz each and the variety must be noted. (The entry deadline for potatoes is October 12, 1985). A hay sample must contain not less than a 12-inch section of a bale, and sheaves must not be less than 5 inches in diameter in the centre, and not more than 7 inches.

(cont'd)

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Farmers urged to participate in Royal Agricultural Winter Fair (cont'd)

Exhibits must be shipped in containers strong enough to ensure that the exhibit will reach its destination in good condition. Light cotton sacks are not strong enough alone and should be placed in a cardboard box before shipping. The entry tag should be placed inside the container.

Entries close on October 5, 1985. All exhibits that are sent directly to the Royal must arrive before November 1, 1985. The deadline for entries sent via Alberta Agriculture is October 25, 1985. They should be addressed to: Field Crops Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Bag Service No. 47, Lacombe, Alberta, T0C 1S0.

For further information, prize lists, and entry forms, contact: Bill Witbeck, (telephone 782-4641), or your local district agriculturist.

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Contact:

Bill Witbeck
782-4641

September 23, 1985

For immediate release

4-H'er wins Hoechst Canada Bursary

Shelly Werenka of Sangudo has been awarded the Hoechst Canada Bursary of $500 for 1985. She was selected for this award by the 4-H scholarship committee because of her 4-H achievements, academic standing and leadership abilities.

Shelly Werenka

Shelly has been a member of the Sangudo 4-H Beef Club since 1977. She has held every office in her club and has been involved in every aspect of the 4-H program. Shelly is attending Red Deer College, taking her first year of pre-veterinary medicine.

The Hoechst Canada Bursary is awarded to a first year student, enrolled in any Alberta university or college, taking a degree or diploma program in agriculture.

A number of 4-H scholarships are awarded annually. For more information contact your regional 4-H specialist, district home economist or the 4-H branch of Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton.

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Contact:

Elizabeth Webster
427-2541

September 23, 1985

For immediate release

J.G. O'Donoghue Memorial lecture

The third J.G. O'Donoghue Memorial lecture will be presented on October 8, 1985 at 3:30 p.m. at the University of Alberta.

The title of the lecture is "The Human-Animal Interrelationship in Teaching, Research and Service" and will be given by Dr. Leo Bustad who is Professor and Dean Emeritus at the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Washington, Pullman. Dr. Bustad has a particular interest in the significance of the human-animal bond to the biomedical sciences and to mankind in general, and in recent years has devoted all his time to this topic.

The lecture will be held in the Humanities Lecture Theatre One, Humanities Building, University of Alberta. Parking will be available in the U Zone Parking Lot, 111 Street and 90 Avenue.

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Contact:

Dr. M.W. Stone
436-9343

September 23, 1985

For immediate release

1985 Alberta certified feeder cattle sales

November 19	Tuesday	Olds Auction Market
	1:00 PM	Olds
	Harry Drever	556-3655
November 20	Wednesday	Innisfail Auction Market
	12:00 noon	Innisfail
	Jack Daines	227-3166
November 26	Tuesday	Perlich Brothers Sales Pavilion
	1:00 PM	Lethbridge
	Tony Perlich	329-3101
November 27	Wednesday	Bonnyville Auction Market
	1:00 PM	Bonnyville
	Mike Kopala	826-3214
November 28	Thursday	Killam Auction Market
	1:00 PM	Killam
	Otto Streberg	Bus.672-2114 Bus.662-2722
November 29	Friday	Lacombe Auction Mart Ltd.
	1:00 PM	Lacombe
	Herb Curran	782-3825

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1985 Alberta certified feeder cattle sales (cont'd)

November 29	Friday	Stettler Auction Mart 1971 Ltd.
	11:00 AM	Stettler
	Greg Hayden	742-2368
December 2	Monday	Clyde Modern Livestock
	9:30 AM	Clyde
	Lee Nelsson	348-5893
December 2	Monday	Grande Prairie Auction
Tentative	10:00 AM	Grande Prairie
	Bryan Tink	532-0520 or 532-3949
December 4	Wednesday	Bonnyville Auction Market
	10:00 AM	Bonnyville
	Mike Kopala	826-3214
December 6	Friday	Balog Auction Services
	11:00 AM	Lethbridge
	Bob Balog	320-1980
December 6	Friday	Edmonton Public Stock Yards
	10:00 AM	Edmonton
	Don Danard	473-5776
December 6	Friday	Rimbey Auction Market
	11:00 AM	Rimbey
	Ervin Pederson	843-2439

(cont'd)

1985 Alberta certified feeder cattle sales (cont'd)

December 6	Friday	Coles Auction Market
	1:00 PM	Rocky Mountain House
	Gladys Cole	845-6103
December 7	Saturday	Vold, Jones & Vold Auction
	12:00 noon	Ponoka
	Blair Vold	783-3177 or 783-5561
December 9	Monday	Burnt Lake Auction Market
	11:00 AM	Red Deer
	Ron Simms	347-6100

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September 23, 1985

For immediate release

Milk quality supervisor appointed at Wetaskiwin

David J. Domes has been appointed milk quality supervisor at the dairy division's head office in Wetaskiwin. The appointment which was effective September 1, 1985 was announced by H. Morley Douglas, assistant deputy minister, Alberta Agriculture.

Raised on a mixed farm near Weyburn, Saskatchewan, Mr. Domes attended the University of Saskatchewan, where he obtained a B.Sc. in agriculture majoring in dairy science in 1968 and a B.Ed. majoring in secondary education (Biology) in 1974.

While employed with the animal industry branch of the Saskatchwan Department of Agriculture, Mr. Domes obtained extensive experience in dairying. He was responsible for milk quality control and the dairy herd improvement programs as well as regulatory and extension programs at the plant and farm levels.

As milk quality supervisor within the dairy production branch, Mr. Domes will be administering regulations under the Dairy Industry Act and milk grade and price program to ensure milk quality standards are maintained at the farm level in Alberta. Mr. Domes' duties also include development and coordination of provincial programs and services relating to milk quality improvement.

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Contact:

David Domes
352-1223

September 23, 1985

For immediate release

Plant pathologist appointed at Vegreville

Hugh Philip, head of the crop protection group at the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville, has announced the appointment of Dr. Sheau-Fang Hwang to the position of plant pathologist.

Dr. Hwang will be primarily responsible for applied research and extension on economically important diseases of forage crops grown in Alberta.

Before joining the centre, Dr. Hwang worked on alfalfa crown rot and cold hardiness of winter wheat as a research associate with Alberta Agriculture.

Dr. Hwang earned her M.Sc. in Taiwan, and was awarded a Ph.D. in plant pathology at Washington State University. She is a member of the Plant Pathology Society of Alberta and the Canadian Phytopathological Society.

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Contact:

Dr. Sheau-Fang Hwang
632-6761 Ext.286

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AGRI-NEWS

1985

September 30, 1985

For immediate release

This Week

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September 30, 1985

For immediate release

Farming for the Future Research Conference

Farming for the Future is sponsoring its second conference on October 22 and 23, 1985 in Lethbridge. At the conference, selected scientists and specialists will highlight research supported by the agricultural research fund during the past six years.

Since Farming for the Future began in 1979, more than $31 million has been awarded to a total of 337 research projects. These studies were specifically designed to address problems affecting agricultural production in Alberta.

Speakers at the conference were chosen from some of the important production areas into which the fund was subdivided. Topics will include livestock disease research, crop variety testing, equipment evaluation drainage and irrigation technology, and the on-farm demonstration program.

Alberta's minister of agriculture, LeRoy Fjordbotten, will address the conference in the evening.

The conference registration fee is $25 per person.

For further information contact Evelyn Shapka, Conference Coordinator, Research Division, Alberta Agriculture, Second Floor, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 or call 427-1956.

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Contact:

Evelyn Shapka
427-1956

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September 30, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta's wild rice industry

The possibility of cultivating wild rice has challenged farmers for over 100 years. Today, Alberta producers are meeting that challenge by following in the footsteps of neighboring Saskatchewan where more than 400 tonnes of wild rice were harvested in 1984.

Although wild rice is not native to Alberta, the industry has flourished in recent years. From only two producers in 1980, there are now more than 90.

For Athabasca producer, Harvey Barrett, prospects look bright. After only three years as a wild rice grower, he cultivates 60 acres of rice on three different lakes. Last year, with his two air boats he harvested about 150 pounds per acre. He expects yields this September to be as much or better.

Wild rice is grown throughout Alberta. According to David Burdek, an agrologist with the Alberta Wild Rice Growers' Association, there are stands as far south as Sundre and as far north as Fort Chipewyan. "The greatest potential, however, lies in the chains of northern lakes," he says.

About 20 Alberta lakes were seeded in the fall of 1983. Wild rice successfully grew in half of the lakes with a yield of 22 to 121 pounds per acre (25 to 136 kilograms per hectare).

However, until Alberta producers reach yields high enough to justify shipping it to the nearest processing plant in LaRonge, Saskatchewan, most of their rice will be sold as seed within the province.

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Alberta's wild rice industry (cont'd)

Seeding and harvesting operations are relatively simple requiring little equipment or manpower. In the fall, 20 to 31 pounds of seed per acre (22 to 35 kilograms per hectare) are sown by hand from a boat. The rice is harvested the following September by a frontal attachment on an air-propelled boat.

Once established, wild rice will reseed itself every year.

The export potential of wild rice is excellent. Both the United States and Japan represent ready markets. Locally, wild rice is in demand by health food stores who sell it at prices ranging from $5 to $10 per pound.

For further information, please contact the Alberta Wild Rice Growers' Association at Box 2007, Lac La Biche, Alberta, TOA 2CO or call 623-5219.

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Contact:

David Burdek
623-5219

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September 30, 1985

For immediate release

Preconditioning reduces feedlot disease problems

Data collected over the past five years through the Alberta certified preconditioned feeder program demonstrates the value of preconditioning. Feedlots which purchased preconditioned calves reported a wide range in the health of both preconditioned and regular auction calves. "After five years, we now have information on over 10,000 head of preconditioned and 13,000 regular auction calves," says Brian Harris, coordinator of the Alberta preconditioning program. "Preconditioning substantially reduced the treatment rates and death loss."

Of 10,222 preconditioned calves, 9.6 per cent were treated during the first six weeks in the feedlot and the death loss was 0.6 per cent. Regular calves in the same feedlots had a treatment rate of 21.4 per cent and a death loss of 1.9 per cent.

From this information, it has been concluded that preconditioning reduces the number of sick calves by more than one-half and reduces death losses to one-third that of regular calves. Combined with the fact that they start on feed more quickly, preconditioned calves offer several advantages to feedlot operators.

(cont'd)

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Preconditioning reduces feedlot disease problems (cont'd)

In 1984, over 17,000 calves were put through the Alberta preconditioning program. Green-tagged preconditioned calves were sold at 12 sales throughout Alberta. It's anticipated that these numbers will increase in 1985. Feedlot operators are quickly beginning to recognize that preconditioned calves can better withstand the stress of shipping and induction into the feedlot.

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Contact:

Brian Harris
Coordinator, Preconditioning Program
886-4406

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Phone: (403) 427-2121

September 30, 1985

For immediate release

Outstanding 4-H'ers receive scholarships

Seven students have been selected to receive the Alberta Wheat Board Surplus Monies Trust scholarships of $400 each.

The recipients are chosen from each 4-H region and must be entering their first year of a degree or diploma program at an accredited post-secondary institution.

The winners are:

Keith Lemay, Grande Prairie	Grande Prairie Regional College	Pre-medicine
Marcia Breitkreuz, Onoway	University of Alberta	Agricultural Economics
Millie Hastings, Lloydminster	N.A.I.T.	Radio and T.V. Arts
Gunnar Debruijn, Ponoka	University of Alberta	B.Sc. Engineering
Laurel McKee, Rowley	Olds College	Agriculture Business
Tracey Munro, Calgary	Red Deer College	Business
Leanne Hurl, Mossleigh	Medicine Hat College, Brooks	Early Childhood Dev.

The Alberta Wheat Board Surplus Monies Trust scholarships are awarded annually in recognition of community involvement and outstanding achievement in 4-H.

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Contact:

Elizabeth Webster
427-2541

September 30, 1985

For immediate release

Processed alfalfa outlook

Processed alfalfa production in Canada is forecast at 420,000 tonnes, down nearly six per cent from last year despite increased tonnage from Saskatchewan, reports Alberta Agriculture's special commodities analyst, Fred Boyce.

Alberta's pellet production is forecast at 120,000 tonnes, 28 per cent less than last year due to substantial winterkill damage and drought. Other provinces expect lower tonnage as well.

"Alfalfa pellet prices have dropped sharply when compared to year ago levels," says Mr. Boyce. Depressed prices for feedgrains and other feedstuffs are reflected in low alfalfa pellet values. Slightly higher domestic usage and a similar export volume when compared to the 1984-85 crop year should result in a negligible carryover for the 1985-86 crop. Prices are expected to stabilize at their current levels and should increase during the winter.

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Contact:

Fred Boyce
427-5383

September 30, 1985

For immediate release

Garden storage of fall vegetables

Several options are open to the gardener wishing to extend the fall harvest and hold vegetables intact well into winter, says Suzanne Tenold, regional foods and nutrition specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

One of the easiest places to store garden produce is in the garden itself. The technique is particularly suited to root crops such as radishes, beets, carrots and parsnips.

A secure cover of mulch or grass can maintain a temperature of 0°C to 4°C before heavy ground frost sets in. This can extend the season at least two additional months.

Carrots and parsnips can even weather heavy frosts and remain edible if left over the winter and dug before the second sprouting, although the texture and flavor is often woody and bitter.

"If you plan to try the garden storage technique, cover the crops with a heavy mulch of hay, grass cuttings or straw," says Ms. Tenold. Naturally in locations where the ground freezes hard, accessibility will be reduced. In these places garden storage may be considered for the short term, not through the winter.

(cont'd)

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Garden storage of fall vegetables (cont'd)

Vegetables should not be harvested from the cold ground and thawed quickly indoors. Allow them to thaw slowly or the texture and flavor are likely to be unacceptable due to excessive water loss from the cells.

Frost damaged vegetables should be processed immediately, not placed in home storage for any length of time.

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Contact:

Suzanne Tenold
948-5101

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Phone: (403) 427-2121

September 30, 1985

For immediate release

Fall storage of vegetables

Every spring planting brings the eager anticipation of harvesting most of the produce for our own enjoyment.

Fall vegetables are particularly enjoyed and can be held over for several months beyond harvest in cold storage with careful planning and proper conditions, says Suzanne Tenold, Alberta Agriculture's food and nutrition specialist at Airdrie.

General cold storage or "root cellaring" provides a handy opportunity for holding produce.

The most successful results are achieved when actual cold room structures are built or basements renovated to allow for cold temperatures, good ventilation, and adjustable humidity levels. Plans for these structures are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices.

It is possible, however, to keep fall vegetables after harvest in available space around the house, as long as some of the specific needs of the items are met and some basic rules are followed.

1) Late-maturing, longer-growing vegetables are most suited to cold room storage.
2) Immature vegetables do not store well.
3) Handle items as little as possible. Damaged produce does not store well.
4) Leave 1 - 2 inches of stem when harvesting each vegetable. This helps to keep juices in and infection out.

(cont'd)

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Fall storage of vegetables (cont'd)

5) Store vegetables that have surfaces which have been dried or cured. Curing can take from 1-2 weeks in a well ventilated spot. A hard, dry surface helps protect against mold, disease or insects.

6) Vegetables requiring dry, somewhat warmer storage conditions (squash, pumpkin, onions) should be stored separately from others and should not touch one another. This allows even air circulation.

7) Vegetables such as beets, carrots, parsnips and rutabagas tend to lose moisture rapidly and tend to shrink in storage. These should be stored in perforated polyethylene bags.

8) Use newspaper to closely wrap those items which are stronger smelling than most (e.g., cabbages).

9) Thoroughly clean and air out all the shelves and other surfaces where produce is stored, before and after use.

10) Do not allow temperatures to drop below freezing or to fluctuate dramatically for any length of time.

11) Store vegetables in as little light as possible.

12) Protect the stored vegetables from rodents, dust or insects.

Placing the vegetables in locations which will provide conditions suited to each type, protecting them from variations of temperature, humidity and light, can extend the shelf life of many fall vegetables.

(cont'd)

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Fall storage of vegetables (cont'd)

Fall vegetables with similar atmospheric requirements can be grouped into three categories.

Group 1: warm temperature (10°C -- 15°C), low humidity

pumpkin, squash, vegetable marrow

Group II: low temperature, high humidity

beets	celery
cabbage	parsnips
carrots	turnips

potatoes

Group III: low temperature, low humidity

dried peas, dried beans, onions

Contact:

Suzanne Tenold
948-5101

Alberta
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Phone: (403) 427-2121

September 30, 1985

For immediate release

Conservation and development branch appoints administrative coordinator

Alfreda Strzelec has been appointed project administrative coordinator with Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch. The appointment was announced by Paul Barlott, branch head.

Ms. Strzelec will coordinate a wide variety of soil conservation and farm water management projects. She will work closely with rural municipalities that carry out projects under the soil conservation area program (SCAP) and the farmland development reclamation program (FDRP).

Ms. Strzelec brings to the position 11 years of financial and administrative experience.

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Contact:

Alfreda Strzelec
422-4385

Correction

In Agri-News, September 23, 1985, the article entitled *1985 silage custom charges* should have read: "According to the survey, the cost for packing ranged from $1 - **$1.65** per tonne.

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AGRI-NEWS

October 7, 1985

For immediate release

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October 7, 1985

For immediate release

Minister optimistic on stabilization

Alberta Agriculture Minister LeRoy Fjordbotten says he is "90 per cent convinced" that the latest federal government proposal for a national red meat stabilization plan can work, if a few details are settled.

The proposal, developed in consultation with producers, is currently being considered by the provincial governments. Cattle, swine and sheep producers should know by mid-October whether they will have a national plan this winter, the minister said.

The tri-partite plan would see producers and the two levels of government contributing one-third each to the costs of the plan, with producers participating voluntarily. It would protect producers from severe losses due to fluctuations in prices and input costs.

If costs rose or prices fell producers would be eligible for payments under the plan. Levels of support and methods of calculating payments would vary depending on the type of livestock.

Mr. Fjordbotten has reservations about two aspects of the current proposal: the phase-in period, during which provinces which now have their own plans would discontinue them; and a proposal that other provincial assistance programs be studied to determine their impact on the cost of red meat production in those provinces.

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Minister optimistic on stabilization (cont'd)

The Alberta minister says the currently proposed five-year phase-in is "a compromise" -- he would prefer no phase-in or a shorter period. He wants assurances that during that period provinces with existing stabilization plans will indeed be phasing out their plans. He said he would also object if, for example, Alberta's rangeland improvement program is considered a subsidy to the industry, since that would be "stepping on our constitutional rights as provinces to develop our natural resources. One of our natural resources is our grassland," he said.

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Contact:

Jim Armet
427-2137

October 7, 1985

For immediate release

Changes to Feed Grain Market Adjustment Program

Don Scheer, administrator of the Alberta Feed Grain Market Adjustment Program, has announced some revisions to the conditions for the program.

The changes involve expanding the list of feed grains eligible for payment under the program and altering the definition of a feed user. Both changes will be retroactive to September 1, 1985.

"These revisions will be beneficial for a number of processors in the province. In addition, they ease administration for many livestock producers," said Mr. Scheer.

The Alberta Feed Grain Market Adjustment Program was announced July 3, 1985 to overcome distortions in livestock feed prices arising from the federal government paying the Crow Benefit directly to the railways instead of to producers.

The first revision involves adding by-products derived from the eight feed grains named in the program conditions, plus all grain and oilseed screenings, to the list of feed grains eligible under the Feed Grain Market Adjustment Program.

"Including by-products and screenings in the list of eligible feed grains will certainly benefit our grain and livestock industry," stated Mr. Scheer. "It removes an unnecessary disincentive on the use of by-products and screenings as a source of livestock feed in Alberta.

Under the Market Adjustment Program, feed grain users, after registering with and being approved under the program, are eligible to issue certificates when purchasing feed

(cont'd)

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grain. These certificates can then be immediately exchanged by the grain farmer at Alberta Agriculture district offices for Government of Alberta cheques.

The second program revision removes certain restrictions on the definition of a feed user. As a result of the change, livestock producers now have full leeway to buy and sell feed grains as dictated by the particular conditions of their individual operations.

"This revision will simplify the program for those livestock producers who sell one type of feed grain and purchase another," said Mr. Scheer. "Previously, many livestock producers have had to register under both the program's certificate option and farm fed option to receive full benefits. Now, a good number will only have to register under the certificate option."

Further details of the Alberta Feed Grain Market Adjustment Program, including the new revisions being made to program conditions, are available from all Alberta Agriculture district offices.

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Contact:

Don Scheer
422-0015

October 7, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta-Russia meat and dairy program moves closer

Another important stage has been reached in establishing a major co-operative project in agriculture between Alberta and the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic (RSFSR).

The project, the proposed Alberta/Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Meat and Dairy Program, would see the Alberta meat and dairy production, processing and distribution system developed and implemented in the RSFSR by Alberta's private sector within the next decade.

Mr. Fjordbotten indicated that the signing of a "Memorandum on Reciprocal Visits of Alberta and the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Ministers of Agriculture June, September 1985" moves the program one step closer to being the subject of a firm agreement.

The signing occurred during a recent mission from the RSFSR to Alberta. The mission, headed by the RSFSR Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Vladilen V. Nikitin, toured Alberta facilities from September 9 to 19, 1985. The mission followed a similar tour of the Soviet Union in June by an Alberta delegation headed by Mr. Fjordbotten.

"For Albertans," said Mr. Fjordbotten, "this program would represent a significant sale of technology, expertise and commodities, which could well total billions of dollars."

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Technically, the memorandum is an initialled protocol which both ministers will take back to their respective governments for building into firm agreements.

If the results are positive, Mr. Fjordbotten plans to schedule a follow-up mission to the Soviet Union this November.

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Contact:

Jim Armet
427-2137

October 7, 1985

For immediate release

Winterkill cost the alfalfa dehydration industry **$4.5** million in **1985**

Alberta's alfalfa dehydration industry lost $4.5 million in 1985 as a direct result of winterkill, according to Dr. Jim McKenzie, a research scientist at Agriculture Canada's research station in Beaverlodge. This dollar loss represented 26 per cent of the total alfalfa acreage for 1985.

Studies at Beaverlodge indicated that a late December snow melt, followed by -40°C air temperatures, killed many plants of adapted varieties already predisposed to winter stresses as a result of the wet soil conditions in the fall of 1984.

At Falher in Alberta's Peace River region, where two alfalfa dehydration plants exported $13 million worth of products in 1984, more than 9000 acres were ploughed under this spring. The Tilley and Rolling Hills area in southern Alberta lost more than 40 per cent of its alfalfa fields.

Dr. McKenzie states that the $4.5 million figure is a conservative estimate because many of the surviving fields were also damaged and their reduced yields cannot be estimated. Furthermore, some of the dehydration plant managers were able to contract more alfalfa acres this spring in areas not affected by the winter stresses because they were warned of the potential problem early in the winter.

Dr. McKenzie's research program discovered some very important principles involved in the survival of plants in winter. He points out that three factors can increase the potential for

(cont'd)

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Winterkill cost the alfalfa dehydration industry $4.5 million in 1985 (cont'd)

winterkill in alfalfa. The first is low food reserves in the roots and crown. This can occur as a result of cutting alfalfa during the month of August in northern and central Alberta. Second is a late flush of growth in the fall from developing crown buds. This occurs as a result of unusual weather patterns during the growing season. Third is wet soil conditions during the September and October hardening period.

If either of the last two conditions occur the ability of the plants to withstand stresses in midwinter is reduced by 50 per cent. So if plants have the potential to withstand -10°C temperatures in mid-November, and there are wet soil conditions in September or October, the plants will only be capable of withstanding temperatures of -5°C under the snow.

Plants entering the winter low in food reserves are generally less vigorous the following spring and their ability to recover from any minor stress is reduced. If the plants are predisposed to winter stresses during the fall of the year, Dr. McKenzie says that all we have to do is measure soil temperatures and observe some simple weather patterns on a regional basis and we can determine if there is a good chance of winterkill.

Dr. Mackenzie uses these simple principles as well as sampling plants at bimonthly intervals at Beaverlodge to assess their winterkill potential prior to warning producers. When he sees a particular pattern starting in the fall, he warns the producers of the potential problem. If cold temperatures are recorded and dead plants are found in samples obtained during the winter, he makes sure that the whole industry knows about it. This procedure was used to warn the industry of the impending problems during the 1980-81 and 1984-85 winters.

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Winterkill cost the alfalfa dehydration industry $4.5 million in 1985 (cont'd)

By understanding some of the principles affecting plant survival and by having more realistic expectations on longevity and yield, Dr. McKenzie suggests that producers can improve their dollar return per acre. He recommends that producers use certified seed of recommended varieties, use more than one variety on their farm, seed a percentage of their alfalfa acreage each year and plan shorter rotations.

The alfalfa dehydration industry in Alberta is the largest in Canada. Alberta exported $28 million worth of processed alfalfa to Japan in 1985.

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Contact:

Dr. Jim McKenzie
Agriculture Canada Research Station
354-2212

October 7, 1985

For immediate release

Nutritive value of weeds

Weeds are often harvested with a forage crop. They may be harvested as a nearly pure stand, as a mixture of weeds, or as part of a forage crop. On occasion, some weeds may be the dominant plant species harvested. Either way, they may be a valuable feed resource for cattle and sheep.

If a weed is a contaminant in a cultivated forage crop, a farmer will likely harvest the crop when it will yield the most; weeds are usually in the seed stage at that time, says Peter Funk, district agriculturist at Red Deer. To evaluate the contribution of the contaminating weed to the nutritive value of the forage harvested, experiments were conducted at the Lethbridge Research Station. Nearly pure stands of weeds were harvested at or near the seed stage and ensiled.

Five common weed species were compared with two cuts of alfalfa that averaged 17.6 per cent protein and 2540 kilocalories (kcal) digestible energy (DE) per kg dry matter. The average protein of the five weeds -- lamb's quarters, flixweed, kochia, stinkweed, and wild oats -- was 17.0, 15.6, 15.4, 15.2 and 12.2 per cent and the average DE was 2260, 2170, 1760, 1860, and 2920 kcal per kg dry matter, respectively. The weeds compare favorably in protein and DE content with alfalfa and oats. However, the protein content alone may not reflect the nutritive value of the forage. For example, kochia averaged 15.4 per cent protein but contained only

(cont'd)

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Nutritive value of weeds (cont'd)

1760 kcal DE per kg dry matter, whereas wild oats were lower in protein (12.2 per cent) but contained 2920 kcal DE per kg dry matter.

According to Mr. Funk, precautions are sometimes necessary when weeds are harvested and used for feed. Foxtail must be harvested before the bloom stage because the awns of the seed are harmful to the mouth of the consuming animal. Kochia, grown in a saline area, has a high salt content so that cattle fed this weed should have an adequate supply of water with a relatively low salt content. Stinkweed may taint the taste and odor of milk and, therefore, should not be fed to dairy cattle. However, when harvested in a green state, most weeds may be used effectively as a feed source for ruminants.

30

Contact:

Peter Funk
340-5364

October 7, 1985

For immediate release

One in a series of articles recognizing October as export trade month.

Canola oil sold to Hong Kong

Another company's marketing efforts in Asia in the past year have paid off.

This success story involves Canada Packers' canola oil refining plant in Wainwright. Since last September the plant has sold over $6 million worth of canola oil to Hong Kong, says Bill Anderson of Alberta Agriculture's market development division.

The Alberta-based plant takes crude oil and refines, bleaches and deodorizes it so that it's ready for human consumption. Hong Kong sales account for 25 per cent of the plant's product; the remainder is absorbed into the Canadian market.

"This is our most important new market," says Mr. Anderson," and it's especially significant considering the plant only went into operation less than a year ago."

Hong Kong's total agricultural imports amount to almost $4 billion U.S. of which Canada has only a minor share. Canola is our single most important agricultural export to Hong Kong, accounting for about half of the Canadian exports to Hong Kong, notes Mr. Anderson.

Hong Kong's fats and oils consumption requirements are expected to double between 1981 and 1995, thereby offering considerable scope for increased Canadian sales.

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Contact:

Bill Anderson
427-4241

October 7, 1985

For immediate release

One in a series of articles recognizing October as export trade month.

Alberta's agricultural exports to Europe

To penetrate Europe's highly-protected markets, Alberta must rely on agricultural commodities that are unique, competitively priced and of high quality.

"To overcome the constraints of the European market, we concentrate on areas where deficiencies exist for the products Alberta markets," says Doug Hill, an international trade director with Alberta Agriculture. Speciality items represent exceptional market opportunities for us, he says.

One speciality item which has found a niche in the European market is deheated mustard seed. Unique to Alberta, it's now enjoying enormous success after entering the European marketplace only two short years ago.

Produced by UFL Foods Inc. of Edmonton, the mustard seed is used as an emulsifier and binder which has excellent water holding capacity and protein profile when added to processed meat and when used in mayonnaise to improve texture and taste. The product, which replaces skim milk powder and cereal products, considerably reduces production costs.

"At present, 80 per cent of Alberta's exported deheated mustard seed goes into the European Economic Community," says Mr. Hill. Other markets being developed for this product are Finland, Poland, and the U.S.S.R.

(cont'd)

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Alberta's agricultural exports to Europe (cont'd)

Horses, seen as a product unique to North America, are another item Alberta continues to make progress in promoting. Alberta Quarter Horses, and Appaloosa and Morgan horses are in high demand in Germany, France, Italy and Switzerland.

"In Europe there's a market for sound, healthy, well-trained, but above all, stylish pleasure horses," explains Mr. Hill.

It appears that Alberta-bred horses have no problem meeting these criteria. Last March, when the Alberta Quarter Horse breeder group attended Equitana in Essen, Germany, every horse they brought with them was sold.

Honey, a product which the European Community imports at a rate of 126,000 tons annually, also represents excellent export opportunities for Alberta. With a reputation for consistent flavor and quality, Alberta honey has maintained a competitive position in the European marketplace despite the fact that it's not the least expensive.

Germany is by far the largest customer for Canadian honey in Europe. It accounts for 80 per cent of Alberta exports to the European Community which last year totalled $1.4 million or 16 per cent of Alberta's exports.

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Contact:

Doug Hill
427-4241

October 7, 1985

For immediate release

Lilydale co-operative scholarship awarded

Shannon Gordeyko of Ohaton has been named the winner of the Lilydale Co-operative Scholarship, a new scholarship established this year.

Shannon, a 4-H member for nine years, belonged to both the Ohaton 4-H Multipurpose Club and the Bawlf 4-H Beef Club. She received a number of awards for public speaking. Shannon is enrolled in her second year of home economics at the University of Alberta.

The Lilydale Co-operative Scholarship was created to encourage farm youth to further their education, not only in agriculture, but in other fields as well.

This $800 award is given to a second year student enrolled in a degree program at any Alberta college or university. The recipient must have at least three years 4-H background, show leadership qualities and an interest in community activities. The candidate's parents must be farmers and derive the major portion of their income from farming.

(cont'd)

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Lilydale co-operative scholarship awarded (cont'd)

For more information on 4-H scholarships, write to: 4-H scholarships, 4-H branch, Alberta Agriculture, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6, or contact your regional 4-H specialist or district home economist.

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Contact:

Elizabeth Webster
427-2541

October 7, 1985

For immediate release

Farm Wives Conference 1985

"Farming and Loving It" is the theme for the eighth annual Farm Wives Conference, scheduled this year November 20 and 21 in Peace River.

The conference provides an opportunity for Peace region farm women, who enjoy the challenge of being an active partner in their farm business, to share ideas with each other.

"The theme is indicative of the feeling farm women have for their chosen career, even in times of economic downturn," says Fern Richardson, district home economist at Spirit River. "The sharing and learning that takes place between the participants during the two days reinforces this feeling," she says.

The select-a-sessions provide something for everyone. They range from communicating with your teens and coping with change, to marketing alternatives and the legal and financial aspects of being a farm wife.

The deadline for registration in the two-day conference is November 12. The cost is $20; $30 if you plan to attend the banquet.

For more information or a registration brochure contact your local district home economist.

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Contact:

Fern Richardson
864-3597

Coming Agricultural Events

1985

Irrigation & Soil Management (International Course)
Volcani Centre of Agriculture Research Organization
Tel Aviv, Israel..... October 13 - December 13
Dr. Kurt M. Schallinger, P.O. Box 6, Bet Dagan 50-200, Israel.

National Outstanding Young Farmer Awards
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede Grounds
Calgary, Alberta..... October 16 - 20
Larry Revitt - 262-1677

Annual Meeting of the Association of Faculties of Agriculture in Canada
The University of Alberta Edmonton, Alberta..... October 19 - 20
W. Schultz, Department of Rural Economy - 432-3222

Annual Meeting of the Deans of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine
The University of Alberta - Stollery Centre
Edmonton, Alberta..... October 22 - 23
R.T. Berg, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture & Forestry - 432-4931

Agri-Trade Exposition (Farm Equipment Exposition) Westerner Grounds
Red Deer, Alberta..... October 23 - 26
Pat Kennedy, 347-4491

Second Century - Opportunities for Agriculture
Westin Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta..... November 4 - 6
David Walker - 427-7132

Canadian Bankers Association Meeting
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan..... November 4 - 6

Saskhort Convention & Trade Show
Sheraton-Cavalier
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan..... November 5 -7
Clarence Peters, Saskatchewan Agriculture,3085, Albert St., Regina, Saskatchewan, S4S 0B1

Northlands Farmfair
Edmonton Northlands
Box 1480
Edmonton, Alberta..... November 7 - 16
Leroy Emerson - 471-7210

United Grain Growers Ltd Annual Meeting
Capri Centre
Red Deer, Alberta..... November 13 - 14

(cont'd)

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

A.I.P.A. Annual Conference
(Alberta Irrigation Projects Association), Lethbridge Lodge
Lethbridge, Alberta..... November 18 - 19
Gordon Zobell - (403) 752-3511

Canadian Dehy Conference Edmonton Inn
Edmonton, Alberta..... November 18 - 19

Farming and Loving It
Farm Wives Conference Travellers Hotel
Peace River, Alberta..... November 20 - 21
Fern Richardson, 864-3597

Canadian Honey Council Saskatoon, Saskatchewan..... November 20 - 22
John Gruszka - 922-9790

"Farm Women - Networking for Action" 1985
Farm Women's Conference
Sheraton Prince Edward Hotel and Convention Center
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island..... November 21 - 24

Canadian Western Agribition and Mexabition
Exhibition Grounds
Regina, Saskatchewan..... November 22 - 29
Dianna Hebert - (306) 565-0565

"Irrigation on the Prairies"
The Fourth Annual Western Provincial Conference on Rationalization of Water and Soil Research and Management Centennial Auditorium
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan..... November 25 - 27
Les Bohrson - (306) 867-9925

Alberta Wheat Pool Annual Meeting
Palliser Hotel
Calgary, Alberta..... November 25 - December 6
Al Beattie -290-4910

Alberta Fresh Vegetable Marketing Board Annual Meeting
Sandman Inn
Lethbridge, Alberta..... November 27 - 28

Alberta Sheep Symposium
Chateau Lake Louise
Lake Louise, Alberta..... November 28 - 30
John Knapp - 948-5101

(cont'd)

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Christian Farmers' Federation of Alberta Annual Meeting
Nisku Inn, Nisku, Alberta..... November 29
Ted Koopmans - 428-6981

Alberta Market Gardeners Convention and Annual Meeting
Regency Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta..... November 29 - 30
Lloyd Hausher - 362-3391

Alberta Cattle Commission Annual General Meeting
Edmonton Inn
Edmonton, Alberta..... December 2 - 4

National Farmers Union National Convention
Convention Inn
Edmonton, Alberta..... December 2 - 6

Regional Agriculture Service Board Conference
Lamont, Alberta..... December 3
Ferrin Levitt - 427-2171

Hog Days
Keystone Centre
Brandon, Manitoba..... December 3 - 4
Jim Lapka, Agriculture Representative - (204) 728-5724

1986

Manitoba Beef Cattle Seminar
Agricultural Exhibition Centre
Brandon, Manitoba..... January 21 - 22
Keith Smith - (204) 728-5724

Alberta Canola Growers Association Annual Convention
Four Seasons Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta..... January 29 - 31
Lisa Kendrick - 454-0844

Canadian Charolais Association Annual Meeting and Convention Saskatoon Inn
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan..... February 6 - 8
Ed Pelletier - (306) 467-2286

Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference
Convention Inn South & the Terrace Inn
Edmonton, Alberta..... February 9 - 12
F. Leavitt - 427-2171

(cont'd)

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Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

REDA (Rural Education Development Association) Conference
Edmonton, Alberta..... February 10 - 11
Cliff Wulff - 427-4241

Provincial Agricultural Development Committee Conference
Edmonton, Alberta..... February 18 - 19
F. Leavitt - 427-2171

Agriculture Hall of Fame
Westin Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta..... March 7

Agriculture Week
Province of Alberta..... March 10 - 15

Accent -- Taking Stock
Convention Centre
Calgary, Alberta..... March 11 - 12

Alberta Dairy Seminar
Banff Springs Hotel
Banff, Alberta..... March 11 - 14

Canada Agfest '86
Featuring 1986 Canadian Plowing Championships and 33rd World Plowing Match
Olds College
Olds, Alberta..... May 29 - June 3
Bob McFadyen - 556-7569

29th Conference of the Canadian Institute of Food Science Technology
Palliser Hotel
Calgary Convention Centre
Calgary, Alberta..... June 29 - July 2
Dr. Dave Schroder - 986-4793

World Sheep Congress
Stampede Park
Calgary, Alberta..... July 5 - 15

World Charolais Federation Annual Meeting
Marlborough Inn Calgary, Alberta..... July 9 - 12
Joyce Stewart - (403) 276-9242

AGRI-NEWS

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CANADIANA
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October 14, 1985

For immediate release

This Week

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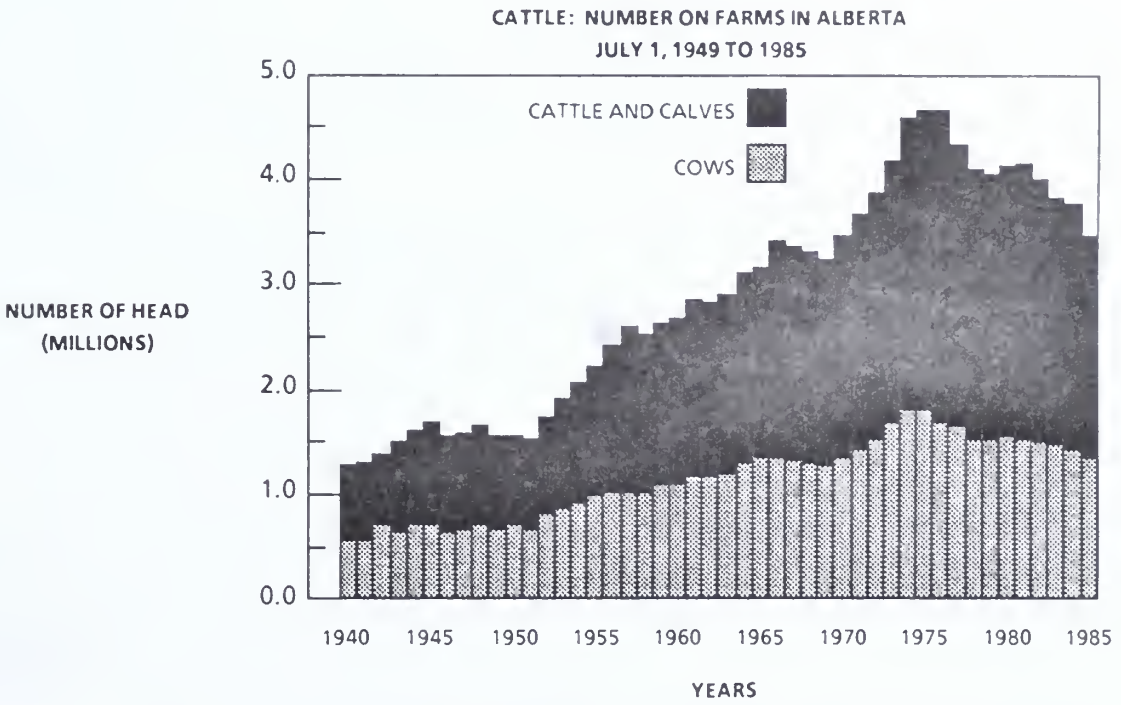
October 14, 1985

For immediate release

Cattle, sheep numbers at low levels



Alberta's cattle and calf population is at its lowest level since 1970, according to a July 1, 1985 inventory by Statistics Canada and Alberta's Agriculture's statistics branch.

Total cattle and calves on Alberta farms were estimated at 3,510,000, down by 270,000 head or seven per cent from a year earlier.

The cow herd decreased by five per cent to 1,373,000 from a year earlier, while the numbers of breeding heifers, slaughter heifers and steers declined by 10, 13 and 13 per cent, respectively, to 280,000, 260,000 and 480,000 head.

(cont'd)

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Cattle, sheep numbers at low levels (cont'd)

The decline is a continuation of a downward trend that began in 1980.

The livestock inventory also found that the sheep and lamb population is at its lowest level since 1979, having declined seven per cent during the past year for a current estimate of 176,000 head.

Total pig numbers remained unchanged from July 1, 1984, at 1,460,000 head. However, sows for breeding and bred gilts were estimated at 145,000, a three per cent decline from last year.

Detailed inventories are available by census division from the Statistics Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 3rd Floor, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact:

Michael Adam
427-4011

October 14, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta Sheep Symposium 1985

Speakers from as far away as New Zealand and as close as, perhaps, the farm next door will share their expertise in the sheep business with producers at the annual Alberta Sheep Symposium, to be held November 28 to 30 at the Chateau Lake Louise.

The three-day event, sponsored by Alberta Agriculture, commences with a reception Thursday evening. The following day, featured speakers include Idaho sheep producer and state legislator Laird Noh, who will explain how incorporation of research results from breeding programs at the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station have been effectively applied in a large commercial sheep operation. Mr. Noh has a 2,500 ewe flock at Kimberly, Idaho.

Also that morning Bruce Binnie of Timaru, New Zealand, outlines the genetic concept behind the two co-operative breeding schemes, involving 50,000 ewes each, with which he is involved.

An afternoon general session features Dr. Art Pope, a University of Wisconsin professor and sheep producer, speaking about the ram and ewe management techniques necessary to attain a once-a-year 200 per cent lamb crop. Dr. Pope also argues the economic justification for such a management approach.

Another afternoon session features George McLaughlin of Beaverton, Ontario, who has used estrus synchronization, staggered lambing and other management techniques to develop a highly productive flock.

(cont'd)

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Alberta Sheep Symposium 1985 (cont'd)

Barry Mehr, assistant deputy minister, marketing, Alberta Agriculture, will speak the morning of November 30 on Lambco -- the past, present and future of Alberta's lamb processing plant.

Both full-day sessions will also feature concurrent seminars on a variety of topics so that producers can choose according to their interests. One example is a talk by Jerry Reti, sheep technician and producer, of Taber, on the economics of custom feeding.

An alternate program at the symposium will be the popular workshop by Linda MacPhee of Edmonton, who will show participants how to work with wool and sheepskin. You can make mittens, slippers or a vest from sheepskin or duffle, also hats and toques. Participants will actually be able to work on projects at the workshop; they are asked to bring their own scissors, needles and scraps of yarn for decorating duffle.

John Knapp, Alberta Agriculture sheep specialist, says inquiries about registrations are already coming in, and he advises all producers wishing to attend to send their pre-registration to him no later than November 1. The address is Alberta Agriculture, Bag Service No.1, Airdrie, Alberta, TOM OBO. The registration fee is $20 per person, cheques to be payable to the Chateau Lake Louise. Costs are minimal aside from hotel charges of $63 per person per day for a double room, meals included.

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Contact:

John Knapp
948-5101

October 14, 1985

For immediate release

Honey forecast for 1985

Alberta's honey production in 1985 is forecast to be substantially below the record crop harvested in 1984.

According to the results of a survey conducted during the summer by the statistics branch of Alberta Agriculture, total honey production will decline by about a third from the 1984 level, to 18.5 million pounds (or 8 392 tonnes). This would be the second lowest crop in the last 10 years.

Total Honey Production, 1976 to 1985

	,000 lb	tonnes		,000 lb	tonnes
1976	20,480	9 290	1981	23,100	10 478
1977	21,450	9 730	1982	18,100	8 210
1978	20,000	9 072	1983	25,100	11 391
1979	22,600	10 251	1984	27,650	12 545
1980	22,700	10 306	1985[F]	18,500	8 392

[F] Forecast

The main reason for this less than encouraging forecast is reduced yield in much of the province from unfavorable weather conditions during the honey flow. In the Peace River region where many of Alberta's commercial honey producers are located, for instance, yield is estimated at about 121 pounds per colony, compared to a five-year average yield of 158 pounds per colony from 1980 to 1984.

(cont'd)

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Honey forecast for 1985 (cont'd)

This survey was part of a national survey of beekeepers co-ordinated by Statistics Canada to determine the numbers of producing colonies and beekeepers, and to forecast honey production for 1985. Detailed results at the regional level can be obtained by contacting: Statistics Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 3rd Floor, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact:

Michael Adam
427-4011

Alberta
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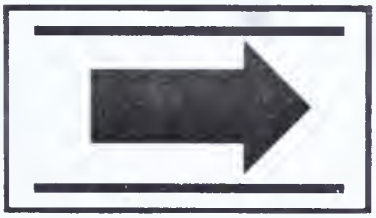
Phone: (403) 427-2121

October 14, 1985

For immediate release

Hunters Urged to "Use Respect"



A co-operative project of some Alberta 4-H clubs and the Alberta Energy and Natural Resources fish and wildlife division is helping resolve a potential source of friction between farmers, hunters and other recreational users of rural land.

The fish and wildlife division has obtained the co-operation of 4-H clubs in the Lethbridge and east-central regions of the province to make rural landholders aware of the "Use Respect" program, developed by Energy and Natural Resources.

The program encourages landholders to post their land stating what recreational uses are permitted and how potential users can contact the landholder for permission. This in turn

(cont'd)

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encourages the hunter, cross-country skier or snowmobiler to obtain permission and behave responsibly on the farmer's land.

Several clubs in the east-central region have been given information packets containing signs, literature and a questionnaire, which they distribute from farm to farm, explaining the program and asking landholders to fill out a questionnaire, says Doug Norman, 4-H specialist for the region.

Both Mr. Norman and Tom Bateman, chief conservation education officer with fish and wildlife, are pleased with the results of the pilot project, which began in the two regions this fall. "There's an extremely high response of farmers willing to have hunters and other users on the land if they ask permission," Mr. Norman said. Over 95 per cent of respondents to the questionnaires so far have said they would allow access if permission is sought, Mr. Bateman said.

He said that a session held in southern Alberta in 1981, in which landholders and recreational users expressed their grievances, revealed that the main issues for farmers are that recreational users obtain permission and don't damage, disturb or steal property.

When recreational users said they'd be willing to find the landholder and ask permission, the farmers said they would make the task easier by posting their telephone numbers on fences. The fish and wildlife division thereupon developed the Use Respect program. The benefit to recreational users has been that land previously inaccessible to them is now being willingly offered, Mr. Bateman said.

(cont'd)

Hunters Urged to "Use Respect" (cont'd)

Many of the farmers responding in the questionnaires say relations between themselves and recreational users have improved over the past few years, says Mr. Bateman. He terms the "Use Respect" program "the best of its kind that I'm aware of on this continent" and credits it with some of the favorable change.

The pilot project in the east-central region, which extends from Drumheller in the south to Daysland in the north, and east to the Saskatchewan border, is already showing results, as the signs are showing up on fence lines throughout the region, says Doug Norman.

Game wardens are pleased with the response and the 4-H members feel they are performing a valuable community service, Mr. Norman said. In addition, it is a source of funds for the clubs as fish and wildlife pays them $5 per packet distributed.

If all goes well similar pilot projects may be undertaken next year in two other regions, Mr. Bateman said.

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Contact:

Tom Bateman
427-6757

October 14, 1985

For immediate release

Soft wheat as a feed grain

Feedlot operators may find it economical this fall to purchase soft white wheat for their feedlot rations, says Dwight Karren, Alberta Agriculture's regional livestock specialist in Lethbridge.

The damp fall has caused sprouting in some of southern Alberta's approximately 400,000 acres of soft white wheat, normally grown for human consumption. However, the sprouted grain will not be suitable for the pasta industry which usually buys the crop, and it could be available at prices affordable to the cattle feeding industry, Mr. Karren says.

In comparison with barley, good quality soft white wheat is about equal in protein and calcium, has less fibre, weighs more per bushel and has more energy per pound. It should be considered as a high energy value feed similar to grain corn. Sprouting's effect on feeding value has not been investigated, although based on barley research, it seems likely that the lower bushel weights associated with sprouting also lower the energy value.

To give livestock feeders an idea of whether they are getting a good deal on soft wheat, Mr. Karren points out that good quality soft wheat, having a feeding value approximately five per cent higher than barley, should command a price no more than five per cent higher than barley -- in other words, if barley is $100 a tonne, good soft wheat should be worth $105 a tonne or less.

(cont'd)

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Soft wheat as a feed grain (cont'd)

The actual price of the soft wheat will normally be somewhat less relative to barley, because barley is the feedlot grain of choice. Since rye is the normal second choice, soft wheat prices are in reality likely to be priced lower on a unit of energy basis than rye in order to be competitive.

Mr. Karren cautions feedlot operators to bring wheat into the ration slowly because of the high digestibility of the starch portion, and to limit it to 60 per cent of the grain portion in the case of experienced feeders -- 40 per cent for inexperienced feeders. It can be the sole grain used in growing rations containing silage.

However, he reminds feeders who use more than 25 per cent wheat in the grain ration to adjust the proportion of other ingredients because cattle on the higher energy wheat ration will consume less total ration to make the same gain.

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Contact:

Dwight Karren
329-5106

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Phone: (403) 427-2121

October 14, 1985

For immediate release

One in a series of articles recognizing October as Export Trade Month.

Livestock genetics sold to Mexico

Alberta sales of livestock genetics to Mexico have taken off in the last year. With the support of Alberta Agriculture's Market Development Division, cattle breeders have exported just under a $1 million in high quality livestock genetics.

Although purebred beef cattle have been most successful in terms of sales, dairy cattle, boars, boar semen and bull semen have also been in demand.

John Latham, a trade director with Alberta Agriculture, attributes this "sudden" success to five or six years of ongoing marketing activities coupled with favorable conditions in Mexico for expanding herd size. For example, Alberta has participated in the Guadalajara Livestock Show every year for the past six -- even during Mexico's worst economic times.

They'll be participating again this year, October 25 to November 3, with a much larger representation from the private sector. It is expected some 20 Alberta breeders will be attending to show their cattle. After almost a year of demonstrations and seminars in Mexico, 800 vials of boar semen have been sold over the past year (the first major export from the Leduc artificial insemination station).

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Livestock genetics sold to Mexico (cont'd)

The show will also give Alberta and Mexican breeders an opportunity to exchange ideas on breeding programs. Alberta's Simmental and Maine-Anjou breeds of cattle are of particular interest to Mexican breeders.

"We will also be discussing the development of a cross-breeding program between Mexico's native cattle and our beef cattle," says Mr. Latham.

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Contact:

John Latham
427-4241

October 14, 1984

For immediate release

One in a series of articles recognizing October as Export Trade Month.

Alberta beef sold in Japan

To Alberta, Japan represents a beef market worth an estimated $60 million per year.

According to Jackson Gardner, an international trade director with Alberta Agriculture, it's hoped that this target is reached within the next three years. "It's a slow process establishing a trade relationship of this size with Japan, but it's a dependable one once it's established," he says. To help reinforce its efforts in promoting Alberta beef in Japan, the market development division has stationed an agriculture trade director in Tokyo, Ab Barrie. Although he markets other agricultural products from Alberta, he concentrates primarily on Alberta beef.

Although Alberta has been selling beef to Japan for some 15 years, it was only two years ago that it changed its approach and began emphasizing the front quarter beef rather than loin cuts. In September 1984, a mission of Japanese meat buyers travelled to Alberta to look at its meat industry. "The aim of the mission was to make them feel more comfortable with the idea of buying Alberta beef," says Mr. Gardner.

Coinciding with increased demand for a leaner style of meat by Japan's younger, more health-conscious population, this new strategy appears to be working.

Alberta's participation in a major meat promotion held last November in Kobe, Japan and in Food-Ex in March proved to be profitable. Since April, 40 tonnes of beef were sold

(cont'd)

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Alberta beef sold in Japan (cont'd)

commercially to Japan, which although it is a small volume, shows an interest on the part of Japanese buyers.

During a week in June, Alberta Agriculture hosted the Japan Meat Industry Association on a tour of the Alberta meat industry. A direct result of this mission was a 27-tonne sale of beef to Japan the following month, reports Mr. Gardner.

A series of Japan hotel promotions which were held in August, September and October, where Alberta beef was prepared by Alberta's most prominent chefs, also helped develop Japanese taste for the product.

Alberta's beef industry hopes to maintain and increase its profile in Japan by participating in several food shows. In November, along with Alberta's meat packing industry, market development plans to barbeque Alberta steaks, ribs and hamburgers at the Meat Pia exposition in Yokohama. Alberta will also be featuring its beef again at Food-Ex in March.

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Contact:

Jackson Gardner
427-4241

October 14, 1985

For immediate release

Former 4-H'er receives special scholarship

Leona Quantz of Innisfail has been awarded the "Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother" scholarship, an award presented for the first time this year.

The Alberta government-sponsored scholarship was presented as a gift to the Queen Mother when she was in Alberta attending the World Angus Forum this summer.

Leona received her $1,500 award from the Lieutenant-Governor, The Honourable Helen Hunley, during a special luncheon held at Government House on September 26, 1985.

Left, Leona Quantz. Right, The Honourable Helen Hunley. Lieutenant-Governor. The picture they are holding was taken by The Edmonton Journal.

The 21-year-old is taking her fourth year in home economics at the University of Alberta. She has excelled academically and has been a member of a number of school organizations. Leona was a 4-H member for nine years, and is currently a member of the Rural Education and Development Association. She has always been very actively involved in her community.

(cont'd)

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Former 4-H'er receives special scholarship (cont'd)

Three $1,500 scholarships will be awarded annually for the next nine years to students in years one to four of programs leading to a bachelor's degree in agriculture, agricultural engineering, home economics or a doctor of veterinary medicine (large animal). Applicants are considered on the basis of academic performance, leadership skills and community contribution.

The "Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother" scholarship is sponsored by Alberta Agriculture, administered by the 4-H branch of Alberta Agriculture and given out in the name of Her Majesty the Queen Mother.

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Contact:

Elizabeth Webster
427-2541

October 14, 1985

For immediate release

4-H'er receives farm credit corporation scholarship

Murray Mytz of Mannville has been chosen as the recipient of the $200 Farm Credit Corporation scholarship. This scholarship was established this year, in conjunction with international youth year, to recognize past and present 4-H members from the northeast 4-H region.

Murray Mytz

Murray was an eight-year 4-H member of the Mannville 4-H Beef Club. He took part in many 4-H programs, and was very active on 4-H committees. Murray is enrolled in his first year of agriculture at the University of Alberta.

The Farm Credit Corporation scholarship is awarded to students entering their first year, or the second semester of their first year, in any accredited post-secondary institution in an undergraduate, degree or diploma program. It is awarded on the basis of community involvement and outstanding achievements in 4-H.

(cont'd)

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Phone: (403) 427-2121

4-H'er receives farm credit corporation scholarship (cont'd)

A number of 4-H scholarships are awarded annually. For more information contact your district home economist, regional 4-H specialist or the 4-H branch of Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton.

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Contact:

Elizabeth Webster
427-2541

Alberta
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Phone: (403) 427-2121

October 14, 1985

For immediate release

Living "On a Shoestring"

Running a farm household "On a Shoestring" is the theme of a conference for central Alberta farm women, to be held November 1 in the Community Centre in Three Hills.

Karen Hoover, district home economist in Three Hills, invites all rural women to attend, and requests that they register by Friday, October 18. The fee of $10 includes lunch.

Linda Barvir, Lethbridge district home economist, will open the conference with a talk on the theme -- having fun while making do with less. The rest of the morning will feature select-a-sessions, which will be repeated in the afternoon so that participants will have a chance to select two of the three. The three topics are: making educational toys out of household items; teenagers and budgeting; and getting along with members of your extended family.

The afternoon will close with a panel comprising three farm women whose families are at varying stages of life; they will again address the theme of living "on a shoestring".

For more information or to register, call Karen Hoover in Three Hills, 443-5503.

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Contact:

Karen Hoover
443-5503

October 14, 1985

For immediate release

Loans officer appointed

Terry Thomas has been appointed loans officer based in Alberta Agriculture's Barrhead district office, Lyle Roberts, regional manager for Barrhead, has announced.

Born and raised on a mixed farm in central Ontario, Mr. Thomas graduated in 1978 from the Ridgetown College of Agricultural Technology with a diploma in agricultural production management.

Prior to joining the Agricultural Development Corporation in August, Mr. Thomas worked in the agricultural credit department of the Bank of Commerce at several locations in rural Ontario and Alberta.

At the Barrhead office, Mr. Thomas will be interviewing and counselling loan applicants and others seeking financial assistance, and preparing loan applications for submission to the ADC head office.

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Contact:

Lyle Roberts
674-8258

October 14, 1985

For immediate release

Farm planning supervisor appointed

Gerd Andres has been appointed supervisor, farm planning section, at the farm business management branch in Olds, J. Wilson Loree, branch head, has announced.

Mr. Andres, who has been an economist with the farm planning section since 1980, holds a master's degree in agricultural economics from the University of Alberta. He was raised on a dairy farm at Agassiz, B.C.

He will be supervising activities of the section, which include developing and evaluating aids to farm financial planning. The section researches and writes publications, and conducts courses and seminars.

Some of the specific areas of farm economics with which Mr. Andres has worked include machinery, custom rates, land, livestock and crop economics. He also has expertise in dairy economics and acts as liaison to the dairy division.

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Contact:

J. Wilson Loree
556-4213

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AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
NOV 1985

October 21, 1985

For immediate release

This Week

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October 21, 1985

For immediate release

Using sprouted grains as animal feed

Prolonged wet weather this fall has not only delayed harvest in many areas of the province, but has led to considerable deterioration in the quality of grains harvested due to extensive sprouting and bleaching.

Although considerable amounts of these grains will be blended out at local and terminal elevators with sound grains, an overload of sprouted on-farm grains is forecast, says Dave Plett with the Alberta soil and feed testing lab. "It's obvious, that there will be large quantities of sprouted grains available as animal feed," he says.

Here is some information on the feeding value and on recommended feeding systems for sprouted grains for cattle and hogs.

The Canadian grading system, downgrades wheat to a feed grade when sprout levels are greater than five per cent. Barley receives a feed grade at levels of sprout over 0.5 per cent, and is grouped into the lowest class, "Canada Feed", at sprout levels over five per cent. Sprouted grain is identified by swelling of the kernal, splitting of the germ face and finally, by the presence of shoots or sprouts.

As sprouting proceeds, several chemical changes within the kernal occur, markedly changing the structure of starches and proteins within each kernal. The process of germination and sprouting requires energy, and therefore, the more advanced the sprout, the less energy remaining in the grain for an animal to utilize for growth.

(cont'd)

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Using sprouted grains as animal feed (cont'd)

Cattle feeding trials using various levels of sprouted wheat and barley have shown minimal differences in performance when using sprouted grains in place of sound grains at considerable levels in the diet.

However, hogs are more sensitive to levels of sprouted grains in the diet. Recent trials at North Dakota State University indicated that when 20 per cent of the wheat fed is sprouted, there was a reduction in energy value to approximately 92.5 per cent of what would be expected when feeding sound wheat. Similarly, as the sprouted wheat portion of the ration was increased to 40 per cent of grain fed, energy dropped to about 87 per cent of what would be expected with sound grain.

Overall, sprouting of grains appears to have minimal effect on feed quality for ruminants regardless of whether fed to cows or feedlot animals. Hogs requiring a higher concentration of nutrients (i.e., under 45 kg) were affected more, making sprouted grains more suitable for dry sows and finishing pigs (50 - 100 kg).

Some words of caution though -- due to the swelling of kernels during sprouting, bushel weight will be decreased. Remember to feed these grains by weight, not by volume as is commonly done. Secondly, molds and fungus thrive under moist conditions. If tough or damp grain is stored, check for evidence of molds and fungus often as they can be toxic to your animals.

Presently, the University of Alberta animal science department is conducting a research program to evaluate sprouted and frozen grains for livestock feeding. Producers

(cont'd)

Using sprouted grains as animal feed (cont'd)

interested in further information, or who may have sprouted or frost-damaged barley to sell to the university for this study are encouraged to call Dr. Frank Aherne, animal science department, 432-3232.

For further information on feeding programs contact Rick Corbett, Alberta Soil and Feeding Testing Laboratory, 436-9150.

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Contact:

Rick Corbett
436-9150

October 21, 1985

For immediate release

Stinkweed poisoning in cattle

If you feed hay containing stinkweed, be on the lookout for livestock poisoning, warns Dr. Ralph Christian, director of Alberta Agriculture's animal health division.

Stinkweed is so common that most producers don't think of it as poisonous.

"But given this year's drought and economics, producers may be tempted to feed stinkweed," says Dr. Christian. As experience has shown, stinkweed can be toxic if livestock eat it in large enough quantities. It has been known to cause severe colic, bloody urine among heifers, and even death.

"Use caution if the hay you feed contains stinkweed, and check with your veterinarian if you suspect poisoning," he advises.

For further information please contact one of Alberta Agriculture's regional veterinary laboratories: Airdrie - 948-6868, Edmonton - 436-8904, Fairview - 835-2238, Lethbridge - 381-5190.

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Contact:

Dr. Ralph Christian
427-2166

October 21, 1985

For immediate release

One in a series of articles recognizing October as Export Trade Month.

Alberta exports cheese to Japan

Consumption of cheese in Japan has increased by five per cent each year for the past 10 years, says Jackson Gardner, Alberta Agriculture's international trade director for Japan.

Recognizing the export opportunities this increased demand represented, Alberta began to pursue a share of the Japanese cheese market.

Two years ago, Central Alberta Dairy Pool (CADP) and Canada West Trading Company pioneered the first exporting of cheese to Japan. Working with Sikai Cheese Ltd., a Japanese importer, they developed a promotional package to accompany the first Alberta cheese samples as they made their debut in retail outlets.

Focusing on mild, medium, old and extra-old cheddar as well as marble cheese, Alberta has succeeded in firmly establishing itself as a key supplier of these types of cheese.

Today, in-store promotions continue to increase; 240 days of the 1985 calendar year cheese promotions were scheduled in retail stores throughout Japan.

Last year, about 30 tonnes of Alberta cheddar was sold to Japan. "Over the next year we expect sales to increase to 50 tonnes representing about $0.5 million," says Mr. Gardner.

Cheese sold to Japan is shipped in 40 pound/18 kilogram blocks. Upon reaching its destination, the cheese is cut, wrapped and sold under the red and white "Canadian Pride" label.

(cont'd)

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Alberta exports cheese to Japan (cont'd)

With Alberta's domestic market shrinking, Japan, as an importer of cheese, represents a valuable outlet for milk producers. This is significant considering that it takes 500 tonnes of milk to make 50 tonnes of cheese.

In March, Alberta plans to feature its cheese at Food-Ex, an international food show in Japan. During this time, CADP and Canada West Trading Company will accompany Alberta's dairy princess on a month-long promotional tour of Japan's retail stores.

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Contact:

Jackson Gardner
427-4241

October 21, 1985

For immediate release

One in a series of articles recognizing October as Export Trade Month.

Long term marketing pays off in Mexico

Alberta Agriculture's market development sector, working with the federal government, the other prairie provinces and industry, has spent six years promoting and testing canola in Mexico. According to John Latham, a trade director with the market development division of Alberta Agriculture, these concerted efforts are starting to show results.

Two years ago, 18 tonnes of canola meal was donated by Alberta Agriculture to be used in feeding trials in commercial hog and poultry operations in Mexico. "The trials showed that canola meal was an effective protein replacement when used in hog and poultry rations, says Mr. Latham.

As a result, canola seed sales have continued favorable after last year's sales of $20 million up from zero the previous year. Since January, 20,000 tonnes of seed worth $6.5 million have been exported to Mexico. An additional 20,000 tonnes will be shipped in October making a total of $13 million with prospects good for another 20,000 tonnes to be sent in December.

To complement these sales an Alberta mission went to Mexico in September to show feed formulators how to use canola meal in the rations for hogs and poultry.

In February, Alberta's first exports of crude oil -- 10,000 tonnes -- was shipped to Mexico's west coast. Along with the oil, Alberta sent technicians to work directly with Mexico's private sector in refining it into an edible product.

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Long term marketing pays off in Mexico (cont'd)

"By sharing with Mexico the technology involved in refining canola oil, we were able to ensure that their initial experience with the process was a positive one, thereby increasing the likelihood of future sales, says Mr. Latham.

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Contact:

John Latham
427-4241

October 21, 1985

For immediate release

Winter protection of perennials

Not all garden perennials are fully hardy. These plants require proper care and attention in the autumn to prevent the winter injury that could occur if the plants were exposed to wind and temperature extremes, says Betty Vladicka with the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre.

Considerable damage can be caused by frost heaving when alternate freezing and thawing occurs. Some plants may have their root systems pushed out of the ground, especially if the plants are growing in a heavy soil. Plants with leafy tops are susceptible to sunscald and dessication. "Snow provides the best protection if it comes early and deep, and stays until April," says Ms. Vladicka.

Therefore, unless a hedge or some form of snow fence is available to collect snow on the perennial bed, some extra protection will be necessary. The snow can be trapped by leaving the stems on medium sized perennials and cutting the taller ones back to half their height. Further protection can be provided by mulching the plants. This should not be done until the ground has frozen four or five centimetres deep. A layer of leaves or peat moss can be applied around the base of plants. Over this, a loose covering of straw or evergreen boughs can be placed. The crowns of peonies and delphiniums should not be covered.

(cont'd)

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Winter protection of perennials (cont'd)

The position of the perennial bed is very important and is best facing north. A bed facing south is exposed to the direct rays of the sun, and the alternate freezing and thawing that occurs in winters with light snowfall.

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Contact:

Betty Vladicka
973-3351

October 21, 1985

For immediate release

Four 4-H'ers win Alberta Wheat Pool Bursaries

Left to Right: A.J. Macpherson, AWP President, Myrna Quantz, Doug Wilson, Shane Bateman, Tracey Hanson

The Alberta Wheat Pool Bursaries first and second year students have been awarded for 1985.

Shane Bateman of Calgary and Myrna Quantz of Innisfail each received a $300 first year Alberta Wheat Pool Bursaries. Shane is attending the University of Alberta in his first year of a pre-veterinary medicine program. Myrna is in her first year of agriculture at Red Deer College.

(cont'd)

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Four 4-H'ers win Alberta Wheat Pool Bursaries (cont'd)

Second year Alberta Wheat Pool Bursaries winners Tracy Hanson of Airdrie and Doug Wilson of Bentley also received $300 each. Tracy and Doug are both in their second year of agriculture at the University of Alberta.

The Alberta Wheat Pool Bursaries are given out annually to students enrolled in any Alberta university or college, taking a degree program in agriculture or home economics. Candidates must be past or present 4-H members, whose parents engage in farming and derive the major portion of their income from farming.

For more information on 4-H further education awards, contact your district home economist, regional 4-H specialist or the 4-H Branch of Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton.

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Contact:

Elizabeth Webster
427-2541

October 21, 1985

For immediate release

Thomas Caryk Memorial Scholarship awarded for first time

The Thomas Caryk Memorial Scholarship has been awarded to Kari Taylor, a 4-H member from Wembley, in the 4-H Peace region.

Kari was a nine year 4-H member, and belonged to both the Wembley 4-H Beef Club and the Wembley 4-H Multi Club. She has taken part in public speaking at all levels of 4-H, and was an active curler at the regional level. Kari is attending her first year at the University of Alberta working towards a Bachelor of Commerce degree.

Kari Taylor

This $500 scholarship was established this year by Steiger Canada of Saskatoon, in memory of Mr. Thomas Caryk. Mr. Caryk was a dealer for Steiger Canada in the Spirit River area of Alberta.

The Thomas Caryk Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a 4-H member in the Peace River region, and is based on 4-H achievement and academic performance.

(cont'd)

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Thomas Caryk Memorial Scholarship (cont'd)

Over 30 4-H scholarships are awarded annually. For more information contact your regional 4-H specialist, district home economist or the 4-H branch of Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton.

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Contact:

Elizabeth Webster
427-2541

October 21, 1985

For immediate release

Farm water management engineer appointed to conservation and development branch

Neil D. MacAlpine has been appointed farm water management engineer with Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch. The appointment was announced by Paul Barlott, branch head.

Mr. MacAlpine was raised on a mixed farm in southwestern Ontario near Sarnia. He graduated from Macdonald College of McGill University in 1980 with a B.Sc. in agricultural engineering and is presently working on a part-time Master's degree from the University of Manitoba.

Most recently, Mr. MacAlpine worked for five years with Manitoba Agriculture as a farm water management engineer where he dealt with on-farm drainage, pothole consolidation, effluent irrigation, and peatland water management.

As farm water management engineer, he will provide expertise in farm wetlands management, slough consolidation and development of on-farm uses of water. He will work closely with rural municipalities on projects under the Farmland Development and Reclamation Program.

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Contact:

Neil MacAlpine
422-4385

October 21, 1985

For immediate release

District home economist appointed at Camrose

Marian Williams has joined Alberta Agriculture's Camrose office as district home economist. The appointment, which was effective October 1, 1985, was announced by Shirley Myers, head of the home economics branch.

Born in Killam and raised in Camrose, Ms. Williams obtained her B.Sc. in home economics at the University of Alberta in 1975. She majored in family studies.

Ms. Williams first joined the department in December 1975 as district home economist at Vermilion. In November 1979 she transferred to Olds where she was district home economist until her present appointment.

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Contact:

Marian Williams
679-1210

October 21, 1985

For immediate release

District home economist transfers to High River

Jo-Ann Hall, a district home economist with Alberta Agriculture, has transferred from Sangudo to High River. The transfer, which was effective October 1, 1985, was announced by Shirley Myers, head of the home economics branch.

Ms. Hall holds a B.Sc. in home economics majoring in family studies. She graduated from the University of Alberta in 1982 and began her training as DHE at Red Deer.

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Contact:

Jo-Ann Hall
652-3232

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AGRI-NEWS

1985

October 28, 1985

For immediate release

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October 28, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta producers' views on feed grain marketing

On October 17, 1985 the Alberta Grain Commission released a producer survey entitled, "Feed Grain Marketing in Alberta: Producers' Perceptions". The survey results clearly indicate Alberta producers' desire for changes to the system of marketing both domestic and export feed grains -- changes which could be achieved by a decrease in regulatory control. These findings are consistent with the Alberta Government's position on feed grain marketing which calls for improved producer marketing opportunities and a significant reduction in regulations.

The survey, commissioned jointly by the Alberta Grain Commission and Alberta Agriculture's Planning Secretariat, was carried out during August of 1985 by Angus Reid Associates Inc. Angus Reid has extensive experience in agriculture and has conducted surveys for a number of agriculturally-oriented firms and organizations.

This survey was undertaken to gather producers' opinions with respect to feed grain policy issues. Producers' perceptions and preferences regarding the current feed grain marketing system and possible alternatives were obtained through the survey.

The key findings of the survey confirm that the majority of Alberta producers would prefer to have a competitive marketing system for all grains, particularly for feed grains.

Specifically, when asked their preferences regarding a marketing system for export feed grains, 60 per cent preferred a system where the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB), private grain companies and grain co-operatives could buy and sell feed grain on the export market. Twenty-eight per cent favored a system where only the CWB would have access to export feed

(cont'd)

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grain markets, and six per cent preferred an open export feed grain market with no CWB involvement at all.

With respect to marketing of feed grains domestically, 58 per cent preferred a marketing system involving the CWB, private grain companies and cooperatives as participants, 11 per cent would have the CWB assume complete control, and 23 per cent favored having all domestic feed grain sales on an open market basis with no CWB involvement.

The survey results also revealed that Alberta farmers are firmly opposed to "increasing government measures which regulate the flow of feed grain in the domestic market".

The chairman of the Alberta Grain Commission, David J. Clarke, said "It was felt important to hear from the producers themselves on this priority issue. Information from the survey is particularly timely in light of the amount of discussion taking place in the agricultural community and in the grain trade concerning feed grain marketing, including the changes to feed grain policy recently announced by the federal government."

Mr. Clarke concluded, "The survey was conducted on a province-wide basis, including both feed grain producers and users, so the results can be used as a valid guide to the desires and preferences of Alberta farmers. It's imperative that Canada's feed grain marketing policy reflect these views."

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Contact:

David J. Clarke
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Alberta Grain Commission
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
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Chairman
Planning Secretariat
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
Edmonton, Alberta
(403) 427-2417

October 28, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta farm safety program launches new look

For the past nine years, rural school children from across the province have experienced the thrill of seeing their entries to the annual farm safety contest featured in Alberta Agriculture's farm safety workbook. But for winners this year, it should be especially exciting.

The "A Child's Guide to Farm Safety" program materials have evolved from the connect-the-dot, coloring book stage of yesterday to the dynamic computer age of today.

"Feedback from Alberta school superintendents indicated that a change in theme and format was necessary to keep abreast of the changes in today's farm society and in the changing Alberta education curricula," says Solomon Kyeremanteng of Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program.

The program's staff has responded to that challenge. On November 21, 1985, Alberta Agriculture and Imperial Oil Ltd., the co-sponsor of this year's program, will unveil the 10th anniversary edition of the "A Child's Guide to Farm Safety" workbook.

As part of their ongoing committment to farm safety, Imperial Oil provided the majority of the funding necessary to make the new workbook possible. "It's an excellent example of private sector and government working hand-in-hand to achieve a common goal," says Mr. Kyeremanteng.

At about the same time, 50,000 copies of the workbook will be ready for distribution to Alberta schools on a first come, first serve basis.

(cont'd)

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Students will see a workbook that has undergone a total transformation. Not only does it have a new high-tech look, but it also uses a new "cooperative approach" to teaching.

Unlike previous workbooks which were mainly geared towards individual student work, this year's edition emphasizes teacher-student projects.

Another feature of the new workbook is that it uses the winning entries from last year as the focus of actual learning exercises for students to work through. Previously, students merely colored or read the winning submissions highlighted in the workbook.

In keeping with the level of computer literacy that has been achieved by today's school children, the new farm safety workbook contains a multitude of hands-on learning and teaching activities based on a unique computer format.

A stimulating safety maze competition which is to be completed as a classroom project serves as a catalyst to create health and safety awareness among both rural and urban children. The farm safety contest will be based on classroom entries of the completed safety maze.

To complement the workbook, a farm safety computer-assisted learning program has been developed. A disc will be provided to each Alberta school superintendent in mid-November upon request. The superintendents will then make copies of the disc available to the schools in their jurisdiction.

A new teachers' guide has also been prepared in consultation with curriculum staff from Alberta Education. The guide offers a theme, measurable objectives, and activities that can be integrated into all subjects whether it be social studies, science, health or language arts.

(cont'd)

Alberta farm safety program launches new look (cont'd)

According to Mr. Kyeremanteng, program staff plan to develop a computer program to accompany the teachers' guide as well.

"From the favorable comments we've already received from the superintendents and teachers we expect response to the new workbook to be tremendous," Mr. Kyeremanteng says.

Here are the 22 winners whose work is featured in the 1986 workbook. The winning entries were selected from over 6500 stories and posters submitted by elementary students from across Alberta by staff of the farm safety program.

Grade 1

Zena Samoilov	-	Grassland
Sean Lineham	-	Stony Plain
Todd Seatter	-	Dapp
David Waknuk	-	Spirit River
Paul Liikala	-	Eckville

Grade 2

Shauna Woods	-	Bentley
Wade Church	-	Cremona
Holly Coyne	-	Falun
John Lynch	-	Camrose
Aaron Weaver	-	Millarville

Grade 3

Darryl Sabatier	-	Glendon
Glen Zatorski	-	Grassland
Anika Henderson	-	Stony Plain
Dana Kostick	-	New Sarepta
Nolan Foss	-	Camrose

Grade 4

Christine Towers	-	Alliance
Trevor Whelan	-	Ashmont
Amelia Chamczuk	-	Grassland
Jerry Kleinser	-	Raymond
Eva Snegirev	-	Eaglesham

Grade 5

Stephanie Jayne Bos	-	Neerlandia
Julie Philip	-	Vegreville

(cont'd)

Additional information on the contest and the workbook can be obtained from Solomon Kyeremanteng, Alberta Farm Safety Program, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6, telephone 427-2186.

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Contact:

Solomon Kyeremanteng
427-2186

October 28, 1985

For immediate release

Computers on Wheels ready for 1985-86 season

What has four wheels, 22 disk drives, 12 screens, 11 printers, and over 50 pieces of software? The answer is "Computers on Wheels".

Part of a three-year project involving IBM Canada Ltd., the University of Alberta, and Alberta Agriculture, Computers on Wheels will tour the province from November to March.

"The purpose of the project is to find new ways of extending computer awareness to rural Albertans, while at the same time trying to increase that awareness," says J. Wilson Loree, project manager with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch.

This year, the instructor in each of the two vans will present a series of two-day courses entitled "Introduction to Computers for Farm Use." These courses will cover fundamental computer skills, an introduction to spreadsheets, computerized record-keeping, and other computer uses. Each course participant will have exclusive access to a microcomputer, and emphasis will be placed on actually using the computer to gain practical experience with it.

The course will give you an opportunity to find out whether a computer could help you with your farm operation. It will also allow you to observe and use the tools which other farm computer users have already discovered.

To register for the course in your area, contact your Alberta Agriculture district office. Many courses have already been organized, but there are still bookings available if a course is not already scheduled in your area.

(cont'd)

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Computers on Wheels ready for 1985-86 season (cont'd)

For more information about Computers on Wheels, please contact J. Wilson Loree, project manager, farm business management branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO, telephone (403) 556-4240.

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Contact:

J. Wilson Loree
556-4240

October 28, 1985

For immediate relese

Producers reminded to apply for grants

Alberta producers who are eligible but have not applied for a grant under either the Alberta Grasshopper Control Assistance Program or the Alberta Farm Fertilizer Price Protection Plan, are reminded that applications are available at Alberta Agriculture district offices.

The deadline for applications under the Grasshopper Program is November 30, 1985. Eligible applicants will be paid a grant covering 50 per cent of the cost of insecticide purchased and used for grasshopper control from January 1 to November 30, 1985. Insecticides registered in Canada for grasshopper control are eligible. An applicant may make only one application.

The Fertilizer Program covers two crop years from August 1, 1984 to July 31, 1986. More than one application may be made by a farmer under this program. Eligible applicants will be paid a grant based upon $50 per tonne of actual nitrogen and $25 per tonne of actual phosphate. For example, for 11-55-0, payment would be $19.25 per tonne or for 82-0-0, payment would be $41 per tonne.

Under both programs, to be eligible, the insecticide or fertilizer must be paid for and applications must be accompanied by appropriate sales invoices.

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Contact:

Bruce Jeffrey
422-5672

October 28, 1985

For immediate release

The effect of fertilizer application methods on alfalfa

An on-farm demonstration project conducted at Ryley to identify the best method of getting nitrogen down to the alfalfa root system has shown that deep-ripping of established alfalfa is beneficial in rejuvenating the stand.

"The project was carried out by Charles and Terry Magneson over a two-year period during 1984 and 1985," reports Jerome Manchur, district agriculturist at Ryley.

Five plots of approximately four acres each were selected. During 1984, Plot 1 had 50 pounds of anhydrous ammonia applied with a Cold-Flo unit on a deep-ripper, placing NH_3 at six to eight inches. Plot 2 was the check strip. Plot 3 had 220 pounds per acre of 46-0-0 broadcast on it. Plot 4 was only deep-ripped to six to eight inches. Plot 5 had 90 pounds of NH_3 applied with a Cold-Flo unit mounted on a heavy-duty cultivator equipped with Culti-Band knives.

The highest yield was obtained from Plot 3 (broadcast N) due to the amount of actual nitrogen -- 101 pounds per acre-- which is almost two and a half times more than Plot 1 received and 25 per cent more than Plot 5. The differences were due to equipment problems. However, if a cost and returns analysis is considered then Plot 2 (check) came out ahead.

Because of varying nitrogen applications and the longer term span needed to evaluate the deep-ripping, the demonstration was repeated in 1985.

The only work done in the 1985 demonstration was a broadcast application of 34-0-0, at 200 pounds per acre, over all of the five plots. On a dry matter basis, the following results were obtained:

(cont'd)

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The effect of fertilizer application methods on alfalfa (cont'd)

Plot	Hay (lb/acre)	Protein (lb/acre)	Ranking
1	1312	210	1
2	543	77	5
3	1048	162	4
4	1062	138	3
5	1146	159	2

Plot	Extra Return After Fertilizer subtracted	Ranking
1	$47.70	1
2	$19.75	5
3	$38.10	4
4	$38.60	3
5	$41.65	2

Plot 1 was the highest yielding. It appears that the deep-ripping with NH_3 applied in 1984, showed a very beneficial effect. This effect was also demonstrated by Plot 5 which ranked second. However, the location of Plot 5 -- along a fenceline with tall grass -- may have influenced the yield. By retaining snow, the fenceline may have provided the plot with extra moisture, says Mr. Manchur.

Plots 3 and 4 were relatively the same which indicates that the deep-ripping on Plot 4 in 1984 (with no fertilizer) was beneficial.

(cont'd)

The effect of fertilizer application methods on alfalfa (cont'd)

Other observations were: The cooperators felt that their deep-ripping shanks were a little too heavy, causing more root damage than was necessary. A better approach would be to use thinner shanks, while still maintaining the six to eight inch depth.

Deep-ripping of grassland should be done during the fall rather than the spring, in order to maximize the opportunity of the grassland to absorb spring runoff.

Contact:

Jerome Manchur
663-3555

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October 28, 1985

For immediate release

Farming for the Future conference cancelled

Mr. Ben McEwen, Deputy Minister of Alberta Agriculture and Vice-Chairman of the Agricultural Research Council of Alberta, has announced the cancellation of the Farming for the Future Research Conference.

The decision was made so as not to interfere with harvest operations already delayed by poor weather.

The conference was scheduled to be held on October 22 and 23 in Lethbridge. Tentative plans are to reschedule the conference for March of 1986. Details will be announced when available.

Mr. McEwen said, "It is important for producers to have the opportunity to attend the conference. The agricultural research funded by Farming for the Future is research for producers. It aims at improving farm productivity."

"The conference was a way of letting producers know about the latest advances in agricultural technology. But, the harvest and the producers' interests come first. By rescheduling this conference, producers will be able attend at a more convenient time."

The deputy minister stated he regrets any inconvenience this change may cause. Registration fees will be refunded in full to all those who preregistered for the conference.

(cont'd)

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Farming for the Future conference cancelled (cont'd)

For further information please contact Dr. Jim Mahone, Director of Alberta Agriculture's research division, at (403) 427-1956.

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Contact:

Dr. Jim Mahone
427-1956

October 28, 1985

For immediate release

Two Norma Jean Gray Scholarships awarded

Karen Larsen

Karilynn Larsen

The Norma Jean Gray Scholarship for 1985 has been awarded to Karen Larsen of Strathmore and Karilynn Larsen of Calgary. This scholarship is awarded to first year students on the basis of 4-H club leadership, community responsibility and communication skills, with an emphasis on public speaking.

Karen Larsen was a member of the Crowfoot 4-H Multi Purpose Club for nine years. She is attending the University of Alberta in her first year of a Bachelor of Commerce Program.

Karilynn Larsen belonged to the Bearspaw 4-H Fabric Club and the Bearspaw 4-H Multi Club. She is studying her first year of education at the University of Calgary. Karilynn's career aspirations are to enter law.

(cont'd)

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Two Norma Jean Gray Scholarships awarded (cont'd)

The late Norma Jean Gray was a district home economist in Alberta for many years, and was very dedicated to the 4-H program.

For further details on 4-H further education awards, contact the 4-H branch of Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton, your regional 4-H specialist or your district home economist.

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Contact:

Elizabeth Webster
427-2541

October 28, 1985

For immediate release

ADC general manager appointed

J. Harold Hanna, chairman and chief executive officer of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC), announced on October 18, 1985 the appointment of Doug Porter as ADC's new general manager. Mr. Porter will take over administrative responsibility for ADC and ensure that the planning objectives of the board of directors are carried out.

As chief financial officer for Alberta Transportation for seven years, Mr. Porter was involved in top-level management and budgetary controls.

Mr. Porter will assume his duties on November 15, 1985, and will reside in Camrose with his wife, Diane, and their three children.

The Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation is a major agricultural lender with $1.2 billion loaned or guaranteed to Alberta farmers and agribusiness firms.

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Contact:

Doug Porter
679-1301

October 28, 1985

For immediate release

Edmonton region meat hygiene supervisor appointed

Dr. G.W. Summers, head of Alberta Agriculture's meat hygiene branch, has announced the appointment of Mr. Owen Munchrath as the new supervisor of meat hygiene for the Edmonton region.

Mr. Munchrath has 18 years of experience as a meat inspector with both Agriculture Canada and Alberta Agriculture. During the past five years, he was Alberta Agriculture's meat hygiene supervisor for the Airdrie region.

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Contact:

Owen Munchrath
436-9343

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AGRI-NEWS

November 4, 1985

For immediate release

This Week

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November 4, 1985

For immediate release

Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act affects farmers

The new Federal Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act was enacted on July 1, 1985 to promote public safety in the transportation of dangerous goods. It applies to all rail, air, road and marine carriers, as well as all manufacturers, shippers, distributors and intermediate agents involved in handling and transporting dangerous goods.

"This new legislation applies to Alberta farmers and they should be aware of how it affects them," says Nabi Chaudhary, agricultural transportation economist with Alberta Agriculture.

Farm chemicals and selected fertilizers are included in the long list of dangerous goods that are regulated to protect the public from potential hazards posed by transporting such goods.

The regulations contain several exemptions, some intended specifically for farmers. Most fertilizer products can be transported without fear of violating the legislation, but anhydrous ammonia and blends of ammonium nitrate are regulated. Farmers will have to put placards (warning signs) on sprayers to comply with the new regulations.

Farmers hauling less than 500 kg (1100 lb) of dangerous products less than 50 km (31 miles) will not be affected by the new regulations, says Mr. Chaudhary. If either one or both of these limits are exceeded, they would be required to carry documentation and/or put placards on vehicles to identify the goods being transported.

(cont'd)

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Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act affects farmers (cont'd)

Chemicals and related fertilizers will be marked with warning labels so farmers will know what they're buying.

Farmers may also be required to train their employees before they can transport dangerous goods legally.

Dangerous goods legislation enforcement officials advise farmers to proceed cautiously until they have had an opportunity to fully digest the legislation and determine precisely when and if farmers can use one or more of the various exemptions.

Under the Dangerous Goods Act, severe penalties have been set for contravening the legislation. Individuals found in violation of it can be fined as much as $1,000. In serious cases, fines could amount to $100,000, or imprisonment for two years.

Fertilizer and chemical dealers should be able to provide farmers with information on handling and transporting of dangerous goods.

Information can also be obtained by calling provincial coordinators of dangerous goods in the Department of Transportation and/or Environment or the Transport Dangerous Goods Directorate in Ottawa (613-992-4624). In Alberta, farmers can call a toll-free, 24-hour information line (800-272-9600). Edmonton area callers can dial 422-9600 directly.

Movement of dangerous goods by rail, water and air will be administered by the federal government. The provinces and territories will administer the programs in respect to road transport.

(cont'd)

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Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act affects farmers (cont'd)

The Alberta government, however, is giving the industry an opportunity to adjust to the new regulations; legislation for intra-provincial traffic of dangerous goods will not be implemented until February 1, 1986.

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Contact:

Nabi Chaudhary
427-5395

November 4, 1985

For immediate release

New home study course helps farmers cope with pests

Crop Protection '86 is a new home study course prepared by Alberta Agriculture scheduled for release in January 1986. The course is designed to help farmers learn to cope with pest problems more efficiently.

Crop Protection '86 is using a new approach to dealing with pest problems by tying together weed, insect, plant disease and vertebrate pest control, says Keith Price, head of Alberta Agriculture's crop protection branch.

Previously, controlling these pests was dealt with individually although it's well known that there are connections," says Mr. Price. For example, tillage for weed control affects insect survival, soil erosion and pocket gophers; insect spraying affects the transmission of plant diseases; and weeds are often alternate hosts for both insect pests and crop diseases.

It's both practical and possible for farmers to learn enough about how pests survive and multiply so that they can manipulate pest populations rather than simply react to them. For example, by controlling weed growth, producers may starve some insects in certain stages of their life cycle.

As with other home study courses, Crop Protection '86 will provide up-to-date information in an easy to study format, while still maintaining university level content.

The cost of the eight-week course is $30, which includes special merchandise offers which have been arranged with cooperating agricultural companies. Full-color identification manuals and a field scouting handbook are also part of the package.

(cont'd)

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New home study course helps farmers cope with pests (cont'd)

Course participants will also receive tickets for the three major seminars planned to tie the course material together. These seminars will feature internationally recognized speakers in weed and insect control and intensive cereals management.

For further information on this course please contact: Crop protection branch, Alberta Agriculture, 2nd floor, 7000 - 113 st., Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6, telephone 427-7098.

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Contact:

Keith Price
427-7098

November 4, 1985

For immediate release

Record spring wheat yields set by ICM methods

The first year of a three-year project to determine the maximum yield potential of spring wheats in the parkland region by applying Integrated Crop Management (ICM) techniques was completed at Spruce Grove in 1985.

This on-farm, field-scale project is being carried out by the University of Alberta's department of plant science, on behalf of the Canada Grains Council, with support from Alberta Agriculture's Farming for the Future on-farm demonstration program and agricultural chemical companies. All field operations were carried out by the cooperating farmer, Mr. Bruce Fuhr, using his own farm equipment on 6.5 acre replicated plots. Harvest areas for yield estimates ranged from 2.5 to 5.5 acres per plot.

The trials demonstrated that spring wheat yields of over 100 bushels per acre can be obtained, and that application of ICM techniques can raise yields of spring wheats by up to 46 per cent. The maximum input regime for ICM (' + ' treatment) included nitrogen at 180 lb/acre, phosphate at 100 lb/acre, growth regulators (CCC or Cycocel), Tilt fungicide, high seed rates, and tramlines in the crop for spray convenience. The 'O' input level represents a basal management level for 'good' yields, using 90 lb/acre of nitrogen and 50 lb/acre of phosphate.

(cont'd)

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Record spring wheat yields set by ICM methods (cont'd)

The following yield levels were achieved:

	Variety	'O'	'+' CCC	'+' Cerone	% Change from 'O'	
Yield (bu/acre)	Neepawa	68	87	78	+ 25	+ 15
	HY320	78	114	108	+ 28	+ 39
	Oslo	80	97	99	+ 23	+ 24
Height (cm)	Neepawa	98	91	77	-7	-14
	HY320	74	75	66	+ 1	-10
	Oslo	82	80	68	-3	-10
Lodging	Neepawa	-	2.0	3.0		
(0.2 none, to 9.0 complete)	HY320	-	0.2	3.0		
	Oslo	-	0.2	0.2		
Harvest Dates	Neepawa		September 18 (ready)			
	Oslo		September 23 (ready)			
	HY320		October 10 - 15 (green)			

Application of ICM techniques on large-scale plots in 1985 under farm conditions has illustrated the following:

1. Spring wheat yields over 100 bushels per acre are attainable on farm fields in the Edmonton region.

(cont'd)

Record spring wheat yields set by ICM methods (cont'd)

2. A record wheat yield of 114 bushels per acre is being claimed for HY320 in 1985, following application of 180 lb of actual N plus 100 lb of $P_2 0_5$ per acre, with Cycocel growth regulator and Tilt fungicide also applied.

3. The extremely late maturity of HY320 both under normal good management and under ICM management in 1985 supports the recommendation that this variety not be grown in the Edmonton area.

4. The high yield and more acceptable maturity of the unlicenced semidwarf spring wheat Oslo in this trial, at both management levels, supports the need for continued research concerning the production and market potential of this type of wheat in the parkland region.

5. These 1985 results clearly illustrate the key problem for wheat producers in this region, namely, balancing yield potential against the maturity dates of different varieties under different production regimes.

Those involved in the ICM program at the University of Alberta are very interested in hearing from any farmers who may have exceeded a 100 bushel yield of spring wheat in the parkland area of Alberta. It would be appreciated if those who have obtained such a yield would send details to the following address,describing how they achieved it and when, and including as many details as possible of the management system used in that crop: Dr. K.G. Briggs, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, Department of Plant Science, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2P5.

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Contact:

Dr.K.G. Briggs
432-4502

November 4, 1985

For immediate release

National 4-H week highlights new image

John Wise, federal Minister of Agriculture, has proclaimed November 4 through 10 as National 4-H Week coinciding with the launching of a new public service announcement campaign for 4-H across Canada. The campaign will focus on increasing public awareness of 4-H, which has evolved from a purely agriculture-centred youth club into a sophisticated program promoting responsible citizenship, leadership, social awareness and independence through achievement in skill-development projects.

At the same time, the basic concept of encouraging young people to "learn to do by doing" has been maintained. In Alberta there are over 30 projects available for members to choose from. These projects range from computers to photography. Sandy Behnke, Alberta 4-H home economics specialist, says, "Agricultural and home economic projects are very popular, with beef accounting for 40 per cent of the projects undertaken, followed by light horse at 18 per cent, and clothing and foods at 13 per cent."

The 4-H program involves thousands of people and as a result of the dedicated support of volunteers, a significant amount of private and corporate sponsorship, and the support of various levels of government, 4-H continues to provide a unique learning experience for young people.

(cont'd)

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National 4-H week highlights new image (cont'd)

National 4-H Week highlights this unique opportunity - the chance for young people growing up in our rural communities to develop their potential. These young people will someday thread their way through the entire social fabric of Canada, in rural, urban and suburban settings. Thanks to 4-H, to them "learning" and "doing" will have become second nature.

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Contact:

Sandy Behnke
427-2541

November 4, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta farmer named Outstanding Young Farmer of Canada

The National Outstanding Young Farmer Program has recently completed its sixth annual year of operations, and for the fifth consecutive year an Alberta farmer has been named one of the three outstanding farmers of Canada.

This year's national winner from Alberta is Horst Wiebe from Acme. Horst and his wife Dana operate a highly successful 380 sow farrow to finish operation, having started with the purchase of a small, not too successful, 90 sow farrow to finish operation in 1977. Horst's innovations have raised the herd index from 100 to 104.5 and his designs for barns and buildings have been the subject of three feature articles in farm trade magazines. The other national winners this year are Earl Kidston from Kings County, Nova Scotia and Owen Legge from Spring Bay, Ontario.

The program is operated by the Canada Jaycees, hosted by the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede Board, and sponsored nationally by the Bank of Montreal, John Deere Ltd. and Hoechst Canada Ltd. It recognizes farmers from across Canada, who are 18 to 39 years of age, for their progress in agriculture, conservation practices, community contributions and production and financial record keeping.

(cont'd)

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Alberta farmer named Outstanding Young Farmer of Canada (cont'd)

Previous national winners from Alberta are: Jerry Kubik from Wrentham, Loren Stewart from Strathmore, Gordon Bussey from Airdrie, and Dwight Woody from Coronation.

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Contact:

L. Revitt
278-9411

November 4, 1985

For immediate release

TX Bar Ranches scholarships awarded

From left to right- John Burlet, Perry Spitzer, Tamara Simon, Tim Smith

The 4-H scholarship committee has awarded the TX Bar scholarships for 1985. These scholarships are sponsored annually by Mr. John P. Ignatius, a 4-H supporter from Dunmore, Alberta.

TX Bar (1) for $1,000 each, has been awarded to John Burlet of Cherhill and Perry Spitzer of Barrhead. Both John and Perry are taking their second year of veterinary medicine at the University of Saskatchewan.

Tamara Simon of Bow Island received the TX Bar (2) scholarship of $500. Tamara is enrolled in her first year of home economics at the University of Lethbridge.

TX Bar (3) was awarded to Tim Smith of Burdett. Tim is in his first year at Medicine Hat College, taking a pre-veterinary medicine program. TX Bar (3) is a $400 award.

(cont'd)

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TX Bar Ranches scholarships awarded (cont'd)

Candidates for all three scholarships must have at least two years 4-H background.

For information on these and other scholarships, contact your regional 4-H office, district home economist or the 4-H branch of Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton.

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Contact:

Elizabeth Webster
427-2541

November 4, 1985

For immediate release

Cattle veterinarian appointed to animal health division

Dr. Gerald Ollis joined Alberta Agriculture's animal health division as cattle veterinarian on October 1, 1985.

In his new position, Dr. Ollis will be responsible for directing and conducting animal health extension programs for dairy and beef producers in Alberta and for carrying out in-depth investigations of disease problems at the request of practising veterinarians or producers. In addition, Dr. Ollis will participate in research trials to evaluate biological products and disease control strategies and will work closely with a number of people in both the Department of Agriculture and the private sector.

Dr. Ollis graduated from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, Saskatoon in 1971. After working for three years in a mixed practice in Leduc, Alberta, he was employed by Alberta Livestock Transplants in Calgary from 1974 to 1977 carrying out embryo transfers and related work. He then established his own practice in Leduc during which much of his time was devoted to dairy herd health.

Although available to all cattle producers in the province, Dr. Ollis has a special interest in problems occurring in dairy herds.

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Contact:

Dr. Gerald Ollis
436-9343

November 4, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta Agriculture appoints trade director for central North America

Lou Normand, senior trade director of Alberta Agriculture's market development division has announced the appointment of Doug Bienert as trade director for central North America. Mr. Bienert will be responsible for developing markets in this sector for Alberta agricultural commodities and food products.

Born and raised on a dairy farm near Leduc, Alberta, Mr. Bienert holds a Master's degree in agricultural science from Cal Poly University, California.

Mr. Bienert worked previously with Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch and with Canadian Livestock Import Export Company. For the past two years, he has been associate trade director with the market development division of Alberta Agriculture

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Contact:

Doug Bienert
427-4241

Correction

In Agri-News, October 28, 1985, the telephone number in the article entitled *Edmonton region meat hygiene supervisor appointed*, should have read **437-9340**.

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AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
DEC 1 0 1985

November 11, 1985

For immediate release

This Week

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November 11, 1985

For immediate release

Agricultural firms win export awards

Agriculture was well represented when the Alberta government handed out its annual export awards October 25 in Edmonton.

"Five agricultural companies were among the 17 award winners," says Doug Bienert of Alberta Agriculture's market development division. He attributes this success to growing sophistication on the part of many agricultural exporters from Alberta.

Canada West Trading Company of Edmonton was recognized for its export marketing services for all types of agri-food products and, in particular, for its "Taste of Canada" promotion program which has benefited a wide range of Alberta food products.

Bee Maid Honey Limited of Edmonton won an award for its outstanding export marketing achievements in Europe, Japan and the United States. During 1983 Bee Maid was successful in penetrating the most desirable California marketplace, and in 1984 sales were increased an astronomical 16 fold.

Fletcher's Fine Foods Ltd. of Red Deer, was singled out for continued success with its export marketing program in the United States and in the Pacific Rim countries. They have shown a 300 per cent volume increase in the Pacific Northwest market.

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Agricultural firms win export awards (cont'd)

The other winners from agriculture were Alberta Food Products of Fort Saskatchewan, which exports canola meal, canola meal pellets and canola oil, and Edmonton Potato Growers (1971) Ltd., a potato packaging and grading company, which has embarked on the export of seed potatoes.

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Contact:

Doug Bienert
427-4241

November 11, 1985

For immediate release

Cattle situation and outlook

Supplies of fed slaughter cattle will be reduced in the fourth quarter of 1985 and into the first half of 1986, according to Gordon Herrington, livestock analyst with Alberta Agriculture.

In Alberta third quarter slaughter was 11 per cent above year ago levels. Cow slaughter was exceptionally heavy on a seasonal basis -- some 40 per cent above year ago levels. Steer slaughter was 10 per cent above a year ago and heifer slaughter, one per cent up.

To some extent the increased cow slaughter was a result of drought conditions but was also a continuation of the sustained slaughter trend evident since the beginning of the fourth quarter 1984. Cash flow and other financial difficulties appear to have been major factors in the extra cow slaughtering.

The severe decline in fed cattle prices were reflected in the demand and price of feeder cattle. However, Alberta feeder cattle prices did not experience the magnitude of the price declines of other markets. This can be attributed to both the relatively tighter supply of feeder cattle and the introduction of the Alberta Feed Grain Market Adjustment Program designed to reduce the cost of feed in Alberta, says Mr. Herrington.

Price strength is expected over the next nine months but it will be limited by the competitive pricing and adequate supply of other meats.

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Cattle situation and outlook (cont'd)

Feeder cattle demand should be strong in western Canada as supplies are reduced and financial stresses resulting from weak second and third quarter 1985 slaughter prices have been alleviated by provincial price support programs.

Feeder demand in the U.S. is expected to be weak as a result of credit pressures and the financial losses experienced by feedlots during the summer.

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Contact:

Gordon Herrington
427-5376

November 11, 1985

For immediate release

Forage tested at Beaverlodge

The production of forage seed for export is a growing industry in Alberta, especially in the Peace River region. It is worth an estimated $25 million to producers each year.

Such production frequently involves growing forage varieties that are not native to Canada, so their yield here is unknown. Under those conditions it can be difficult for the grower and seed company to establish a fair contract price.

A forage cultivar program at the federal research station in Beaverlodge is aimed at solving that problem by testing forage varieties required by the export trade, and comparing their performance in the Peace region with that of Canadian standard varieties.

The program, which is a joint project of Agriculture Canada and Alberta Agriculture, is carried out by Henry Nadja, a forage agronomist at Beaverlodge.

A booklet has just been released showing the result of this year's trials for all the major forage seed crops including brome grass, red fescue, timothy, alfalfa, and red clover.

Mr. Nadja explains that the forage is tested at six different locations in the Peace region. In addition to testing foreign varieties, each site has demonstration plots of perennial forages suited to the area. Mr. Najda says these plots have proved useful to local seed producers who want to compare variety and species differences in their own regions. The program also

(cont'd)

Forage tested at Beaverlodge (cont'd)

provides data for developing recommendations for the possible licensing of new varieties for use in Canada. In the past year two new varieties of timothy, Bottnia II and Tiiti, were licensed due to partly as a result of the information provided by the forage cultivar program.

Copies of the latest bulletin on Forage Cultivar Trials are available from Henry Nadja, Beaverlodge Research Station, Box 29, Beaverlodge, Alberta, TOH OCO, telephone: 354-2212.

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Contact:

Henry Nadja
354-2212

November 11, 1985

For immediate release

CBC features two Alberta Agriculture films

Two Alberta Agriculture films, *The Weather Picture* and *A Matter of Soil*, will be highlighted as part of the CBC/Alberta Motion Picture Industries association Showcase entitled "Alberta Filmmakers at Work".

The Weather Picture deals with weather and how it affects agriculture. "We in the cities are largely cushioned from the weather, while farmers are exposed to it daily," says producer Tom Dodd. Part of the purpose of *The Weather Picture* is to give urban people an appreciation of what farmers have to contend with in order to produce food.

The film shows how satellites and computers are making weather forecasting quicker and more accurate, how plant breeders are developing crop varieties that grow more quickly and resist frost and drought, and how water management makes agricultural production possible in dry southern Alberta.

The award-winning, *A Matter of Soil*, discusses the problem of declining soil fertility as a result of some current management practices such as summerfallowing and excessive tillage.

The decline can be halted and organic matter levels improved by various soil management practices shown in the film. Continuous cropping is one such practice. The film also discusses the four main soil types found in the prairies and the varying amounts of organic matter in each.

(cont'd)

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CBC features two Alberta Agriculture films (cont'd)

CBC will air *The Weather Picture* on December 8 at 3:00 p.m. and *A Matter of Soil* on December 22 at 11:30 a.m. However, these dates and times are subject to change so check your local listings.

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Contact:

Tom Dodd
427-2127

November 11, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta food processors invited to attend food packaging symposium

On November 18, the Alberta Food Industry Advisory Committee will be presenting an up-date on important issues in packaging Alberta products.

"The packaging symposium will provide an opportunity for Alberta food processors to examine packaging materials and discuss packaging and labelling systems with industry representatives," says Andy Drohomirecki of Alberta Agriculture's agricultural processing development branch.

Dr. F. Wolfe, chairman of the University of Alberta's food science department, will open the program at 9 a.m.

"Packaging in the Future", a discussion of how packaging will change to reduce transportation costs, will feature Dr. D. Taylor, a renown plastics consultant to the packaging industry from D. Taylor Inc. in Orangeville, Ontario.

Also that morning Gordon MacRae, district manager for consumer products, consumer and corporate affairs, will outline federal regulations for packaging and labelling.

John Flint, manager, Alberta region for Neeco, a division of Continental Can Industries, will begin the afternoon session with a discussion on films and inserts - - how the packaging industry can make your product more visible.

(cont'd)

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Alberta food processors invited to attend food packaging symposium (cont'd)

Another afternoon session features R. Keith Guelpa, president and chief executive officer, A.E. McKenzie Co, Ltd., Brandon, Manitoba. He will talk about "The Power of Packaging", an outline of how to change your packaging in order to increase bottom line profits.

The registration fee for the symposium is $30 which will include lunch and symposium papers. Registration is limited to 100 participants. The symposium will be held at the Edmonton Inn.

For further information please contact Andy Drohomirecki, Alberta Food Industry Advisory Committee, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6, telephone 427-7325.

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Contact:

Andy Drohomirecki
427-7325

November 11, 1985

For immediate release

Marketing cull cows

Up to 20 per cent of the cow herd is culled annually on some Alberta farms. Culling is usually heavier when economic prospects are poor than when the outlook is good.

According to Rob Hand, Alberta Agriculture's regional livestock specialist at Barrhead, the benefits of culling the beef herd include higher calf crop percentages and lower health related problems.

The most common reason for culling a cow is that she has been diagnosed open at weaning. Cows having difficulty in calving, who fail to wean a calf, or those weaning calves that do poorly could also be culled. Other factors would include physical weaknesses such as cancer eye, lump jaw, saggy broken udders, large ballooning teats, and poor feet and legs. Cow disposition is also considered.

Weaning is a logical time to cull nonproductive cows since it is the end of a production cycle. Another appropriate culling time for cows failing to calve or losing their calf would be in the spring. At culling time a decision is made either to sell cull cows immediately, leave them with the herd in anticipation of increased cow prices, or separate and feed them a high grain diet before sale.

Mr. Hand says the decision is based on such factors as expected price changes, the potential for a weight increase and improvement in grade, sickness and death losses, interest costs, and availability and cost of feed, labor and facilities.

(cont'd)

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Marketing cull cows (cont'd)

A new factsheet from Alberta Agriculture, entitled *Marketing Cull Cows*, Agdex 420/15-1, outlines some market strategies to maximize returns when considering culling cows. It discusses seasonal price patterns, wintering with the main cow herd, feedlot finishing and method of sale.

Copies of this factsheet are available from the Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 and Alberta Agriculture district offices.

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Contact:

Rob Hand
674-8248

November 11, 1985

For immediate release

Electric fences for livestock predation control

Electric fences have been used for years to prevent bear damage to beeyards. They are also effective in preventing coyote predation on livestock. An evaluation by Alberta Agriculture of electric fences on five sheep farms in the Peace River region during the late 70's showed a 90 per cent reduction in predation losses.

"As well as being an effective, nonlethal method of preventing predation, electric fences are relatively inexpensive, although they do require routine observation and maintenance," says Robert Acorn with Alberta Agriculture's problem wildlife section.

An electric fence system can be an economic and valuable aid to both pasturing and coyote predation control if it's well planned and constructed. Effectiveness is reduced when attempts are made to take shortcuts in an already economical system.

Electric Fences for Livestock Predation Control, Agdex 684-7 is a new factsheet from Alberta Agriculture. The 12-page illustrated publication provides information on the construction of an electric fence, as well as materials and cost estimates (1985).

Copies of the factsheet are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices and the Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact:

Robert Acorn
674-8264

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Phone: (403) 427-2121

Correction

In Agri-News, November 4, 1985, in the article, *Record spring wheat yields set by ICM methods,* the per cent yield change for HY320 should have read **+ 46**, not + 28.

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November 18, 1985

For immediate release

This Week

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November 18, 1985

For immediate release

Deadline for Alberta Grasshopper Control Assistance Program approaching

Alberta producers are reminded to submit their applications for the Alberta Grasshopper Control Assistance Program by **November 30, 1985.**

Keith Price, head of Alberta Agriculture's crop protection branch reports that 2493 applications have been submitted so far. "Approximately $1.4 million has been paid out with the grants averaging $818 per applicant," he says.

Eligible applicants will be paid a grant covering 50 per cent of the cost of insecticide used for grasshopper control. The insecticide must have been purchased, paid for in full and used only for control of grasshoppers between January 1, 1985 and November 30, 1985.

Application forms and program condition brochures are available from district agriculturists or participating municipal offices.

For further information, contact your district agriculturist.

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Contact:

Keith Price
427-5330

November 18, 1985

For immediate release

Sheep situation and outlook

Reduced sheep inventories throughout North America coupled with a general improvement in the price of other red meats will provide continued support for lamb prices into 1986.

This tight supply situation is not expected to reverse quickly despite existing price strength in the market, says Alberta Agriculture market economist, Al Dooley.

Lamb prices in Alberta in the third quarter were down from seasonally high second quarter levels but remained well above comparable third quarter 1984 values. Lambco prices for July to September 1985 averaged $81.57-$84.57 per cwt, $12 per cwt above third quarter 1984 prices. Lamb prices in Toronto and San Angelo followed similar trends, strengthening against third quarter 1984 prices but down from seasonally high second quarter levels.

The outlook for the fourth quarter of 1985 and early 1986 is for prices to remain steady in the $83-$87 range.

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Contact:

Al Dooley
427-4002

November 18, 1985

For immediate release

Hog situation and outlook

In Alberta domestic third quarter slaughter continued to expand with live hog exports significantly reduced. Overall output increased an estimated three per cent over a year ago but marginally below aggregate output in the second quarter of 1985.

"Expanded domestic slaughter and seasonal reductions in output were the major reasons for reduced live hog exports," says Alberta Agriculture's livestock analyst, Gordon Herrington.

Alberta hog prices are expected to follow the same trend as those in the United States. However, seasonal variations in price spreads will limit both the upward and downward price trends.

U.S. prices are expected to increase from early in the fourth quarter, peak in the $47-49 per cwt range and then move down to the $43-46 per cwt range in the second quarter.

In Alberta, the bulk of fourth quarter 1985 and first quarter 1986 trade is expected to be in the $64-66 per cwt range, reports Mr. Herrington.

Future U.S. hog output is expected to decline in the fourth quarter of 1985 and the first quarter of 1986. However, gilt retention may be underway and from the middle of 1986 output could begin to expand.

In Canada, further expansion of hog production is not expected to occur.

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Contact:

Gordon Herrington
427-5376

November 18, 1985

For immediate release

Honey situation and outlook

Canadian honey production for 1985 is currently forecast at nearly 35.2 million kilograms, a 19 per cent decrease from the 1984 record crop. Fred Boyce, Alberta Agriculture's special commodities analyst, says over half of this decrease occurred in Alberta where extremely dry conditions led to a production decline of 33 per cent from that of 1984.

"The low yields are creating financial hardships for many commercial beekeepers, especially in southern Alberta," says Mr. Boyce. New crop honey sales have been limited as beekeepers wait for higher prices before moving their current production into commercial channels.

Record honey exports during the 1984-85 crop year exceeded 20.4 million kilograms, an increase of 45 per cent. Exports to the United States accounted for over 80 per cent of Canadian honey exports. Sales to Europe, Japan and other countries also increased. Honey supplies available to international trade are expected to be lower this year and have a positive effect on prices.

Import requirements of the U.S., Japan and European countries will again be large and this should translate into stronger markets and prices. Bulk honey prices are expected to improve during the coming months and should move into the $1.30 to $1.40 per kilogram range.

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Contact:

Fred Boyce
427-5383

November 18, 1985

For immediate release

Build your own land roller

This prototype completed over 5000 trouble-free acres during the spring in which it was constructed.

Alberta producers who are looking for a project to keep them occupied this winter may want to consider building a land roller.

A land roller with transport wheels has been developed by the West Central Forage Association with design assistance from Alberta Agriculture's engineering branch.

"It's intended for use in preparation of seedbeds for forages and canola, and for imbedding rocks that clutter hay land," says John Kienholz, an engineering technologist with Alberta Agriculture.

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Build your own land roller (cont'd)

The roller can be filled with water or left empty depending on the amount of compaction required.

From the first prototype it is estimated that the materials (not including welding) will cost about $2,500. The time required to construct the roller is about 60 hours.

The unit is four feet in diameter and approximately 18 feet wide. It weighs about six tons empty and 13 tons when filled with water. The roller can be drained in about 15 minutes.

Build Your Own Land Roller, Agdex 748-1 contains detailed illustrations and step-by-step instructions. The eight-page publication is available from Alberta Agriculture district offices and the Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact:

John Kienholz
427-2181

November 18, 1985

For immediate release

Proper laundry procedures a must for pesticide contaminated clothing

"Results of a study done by researchers at the University of Alberta indicate the importance of farm wives following proper laundry procedures to clean clothing worn by their husbands while applying pesticides", says Moe Hussain, pesticides coordinator for Alberta Agriculture.

The study showed that when cotton fabric used for making coveralls is contaminated with herbicides and then washed once, only about half of the chemical is removed in one instance.

The herbicides tested were the emulsifiable concentrate formulations of Avadex and Treflan. They were diluted to field strength, applied on pieces of the cotton fabric, and left to dry for 24 hours. The fabric was then washed with a popular detergent in an "Atlas Launder-Ometer" for 12 minutes and rinsed twice for four minutes each. The temperature of the wash water was 50°C. A previous survey indicated these laundry practices were used used by most farm wives.

The results showed that after the first wash about 50 per cent of Avadex and 75 per cent of Treflan were removed. If the contaminated fabric is first sprayed with a pretreatment product and then washed twice, between 80 to 90 per cent of both chemicals are removed.

The results suggest that cotton coveralls worn by farmers to spray pesticides should be washed shortly after use and not left overnight. Also the temperature of the wash water should be 60°C -- in fact the hotter the better.

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Proper laundry procedures a must for pesticide contaminated clothing (cont'd)

"Coveralls should be pretreated and then washed twice," says Bertha Eggertson, provincial clothing and textiles specialist with Alberta Agriculture. The clothes should then be line-dried. Together, these steps will help to remove most of the pesticides from the fabric. Ms. Eggertson emphasizes that contaminated clothing should be washed separately to avoid contaminating other garments. Overcrowding of clothes in the washer should be avoided and a full water level should be used. After washing, the washer should be run through the full cycle with detergent to decontaminate it.

Hussain further points out that when working with pesticides farmers should wear long pants and a long-sleeved shirt under their coveralls. This way any pesticide on the coveralls would not get in contact with the skin to be absorbed into the body.

Information on proper laundry procedures to clean pesticide-contaminated clothing is contained in an Alberta Agriculture brochure, *Protective Clothing for Use With Pesticides*, Homedex 1353-90. It's available from the Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 or from Alberta Agriculture district offices.

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Contact:

Moe Hussain
427-4438

November 18, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta Market Gardeners Association plans first annual convention

The newly formed Alberta Market Gardeners Association (AMGA) presently consists of 75 members. It represents an industry consisting of over 350 producers, an acreage of approximately 1800 acres and a farm gate value of over $6 million.

Plans are in the final stage for the AMGA first annual convention and annual meeting. It will be held at the Regency Motor Hotel in Edmonton, November 29 and 30, 1985.

Convention highlights include presentations from the Ontario Farm Fresh Growers Association, Alberta Farmers' Markets, farm gate and U-pick selling by local producers, a trade exhibit, and a banquet and dance.

The annual meeting will be held on November 30.

The cost of the convention is $35 per person and is open to all producers and prospective producers.

More information can be obtained from: Lloyd Hausher, Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Bag Service 200, Brooks, Alberta, TOJ OJO (phone 362-3391).

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Contact:

Lloyd Hausher
362-3391

November 18, 1985

For immediate release

Peat soil management workshop - November 25

The low fertility of "buckskin" soils has resulted in low crop yields and subsequent losses to producers in the northwest region in recent years.

On November 25, local farmers will have an opportunity to discuss peat soil management approaches with Alberta Agriculture staff from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Linaria Community Hall.

Topics to be dealt with at the workshop include: demonstration plot results, fertility (N,P,K), micronutrient deficiencies (copper), soil packing techniques, crop varieties, and development, drainage and renovation costs.

Participants will also have an opportunity to form an association to support more demonstrations and research-related projects and share ideas on peat soils.

The registration fee, which includes lunch and materials, is $10. Early registration is advised. For more information please contact the Alberta Agriculture district office at Barrhead (674-8213) or Westlock (349-4465), or the Barrhead regional office (674-8259).

30

Contact:

Bill Chapman
674-8259

November 18, 1985

For immediate release

Farm water management section head appointed

R. David Neilson has been appointed head of the farm water management section of Alberta Agriculture. The appointment which was effective October 21 was announced by Paul Barlott, head of the conservation and development branch.

Mr. Neilson was raised on a mixed vegetable and beef farm at Sheffield, New Brunswick. He graduated with a B.Sc. in agricultural engineering from McGill University in 1972 and obtained a Masters of Public Administration (MPA) from Queen's University in 1976.

Mr. Neilson has held the positions of director of land development and engineering services with the Newfoundland department of forestry and agriculture, and regional planner with the New Brunswick department of agriculture and rural development. Most recently he was director of production and marketing with the Newfoundland department of rural, agricultural and northern development, a position he held since 1978.

In his new position, Mr. Neilson will be responsible for providing province-wide technical and financial support for on-farm programs including wetland management and development, slough/water consolidation, moisture conservation, agrometeorology, drought management, peatland management, and development of alternate uses for water and water control structures.

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Contact:

R. David Neilson
422-4385

November 18, 1985

For immediate release

New district agriculturist at Foremost

Eric H. Horton, director for Alberta Agriculture's southern region has announced the appointment of a new district agriculturist at Foremost. Raymond Maubert, a Vancouver native, began working at the Foremost district office on October 1, 1985.

Mr. Maubert graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1968 with a B.S.A. specializing in plant science.

From 1981 until his present appointment he was district agriculturist at Peace River.

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Contact:

Raymond Maubert
867-3606

November 18, 1985

For immediate release

District agriculturist appointed at Claresholm

John Clifford Payne has joined Alberta Agriculture's Claresholm office as district agriculturist. Eric H. Horton, director for the southern region announced the October 28 appointment.

Mr. Payne was born in Eston, Saskatchewan and was raised on a grain farm in that area. Majoring in crop production, he holds a B.Sc. in agriculture from the University of Saskatchewan, from which he graduated in 1983.

Mr. Payne worked as a technical sales representative with Cyanamid Chemical in Saskatoon from July 1983 until his present appointment.

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Contact:

John Clifford Payne
625-3301

Correction

In Agri-News October 28, 1985, the article entitled, **The effect of fertilizer application methods on alfalfa,** should have read:

The only work done in the 1985 demonstration was a broadcast application of 34-0-0, at 200 pounds per acre, **over plots 1, 3 and 5.** Consequently, here are the revised results:

Plot	Extra Return After Fertilizer subtracted	Ranking
1	$26.27	2
2	$19.70	4
3	$16.71	5
4	$38.54	1
5	$20.27	3

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November 25, 1985

For immediate release

This Week

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November 25, 1985

For immediate release

Minister of Agriculture speaks at United Grain Growers Annual Meeting

Speaking at the annual meeting of the United Grain Growers (UGG) of Alberta in Red Deer on November 13, Alberta's Minister of Agriculture, LeRoy Fjordbotten, commented that farmers are coming to appreciate more and more the value of the Feed Grain Market Adjustment Program. He said the program's success can be attributed to the cooperation of organizations such as the UGG.

The program which was announced last July has lowered the effective cost of feed grain purchased by feed users. "Improved feeder margins in turn ought to yield higher feeder cattle returns which would be good news for our cow-calf producers," said Mr. Fjordbotten.

The minister stressed that the Feed Grain Market Adjustment Program offers farmers benefits beyond those they would receive by simply selling to the Wheat Board.

"Our goal is to retain the feed market as a viable alternative, but to do that, we had to correct the distortion in local feed prices resulting from the method of paying the Crow benefit," said Mr. Fjordbotten.

He noted that it's important that farmers realize that by accepting "A" certificates, they improve the situation for Alberta's feeding industry and, in turn, assure themselves of future access to the feed market.

Farmers are, in fact, beginning to increase their participation in the program. "As of November 13, approximately 7200 farmers have registered under the Alberta Feed Grain Market

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Adjustment Program, and registrations are coming in at an average rate of about 1,000 per week," said Mr. Fjordbotten.

In just two months the effect of the program is already apparent. The Ontario government has noticed that although shipments out of Saskatchewan have been normal, there has been a significant drop in feeder cattle from Alberta moving east.

Mr. Fjordbotten also discussed the Canadian Wheat Board's attempt to change pool accounts from the current Vancouver and Thunder Bay ports, to Vancouver and the St. Lawrence. The change would not go into effect for all grains and would have varying effects across the prairies. "For Alberta, the change would be slightly positive to grain growers and slightly negative to feed grain users," said Mr. Fjordbotten.

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November 25, 1985

For immediate release

Canadian wheat outlook

For the second consecutive year Canadian wheat exports will have to be limited because of a lack of supplies.

Dry mid-summer weather devastated the Canadian crop and in spite of a four per cent increase in acreage, total production is only 22.2 million tonnes, well below 1982's record crop of 26.7 million tonnes.

"Adding to this year's problems is a lower quality crop as a result of a wet harvest which delayed the harvest to the latest in almost 10 years," says Dwayne Couldwell, Alberta Agriculture's grains analyst.

The lower quality of this year's harvest puts Canadian wheat in direct competition with lower quality United States, Argentine and European wheats as well as huge U.S. feedgrain supplies. "This will make Canadian wheat sales much more difficult than they normally would have been," says Mr. Couldwell.

This years's domestic consumption will be less predictable as a result of livestock consumption on the prairies. While livestock numbers are considerably reduced, the price of much of the off-grade wheats make them a very attractive alternative to feeding barley and as a result wheat feeding may remain higher than the initial livestock numbers would indicate. Domestic wheat consumption is estimated at 5.58 million tonnes up 3.7 per cent from last year's consumption and a new record domestic disappearance.

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Canadian wheat outlook (cont'd)

Since the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) remains in a very favorable selling position throughout the world, there should be little problem selling all available supplies, says Mr. Couldwell. With the exception of grade Canada Feed wheat the CWB should again be able to reduce carryover to near record lows.

The 1985-86 carryover has been placed at 7.6 million tonnes slightly higher than last year's record low of 7.46 leaving the CWB a total of 16.5 million tonnes available for export. This level of exports means a further one million tonne reduction in Canadian exports and almost 5.3 million tonnes below the 1983-84 record.

Price prospects for the 1985-86 crop year are less optimistic than last year. However, a decline in the exchange rate will help buffer the decline in prices.

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Contact:

Dwayne Couldwell
427-5386

November 25, 1985

For immediate release

Canadian feedgrain outlook

Canadian barley prices have declined sharply in 1985-86 and additional declines on local domestic prices are expected because of adequate supplies and lower export returns.

Dwayne Couldwell, Alberta Agriculture's grains analyst expects the export returns for Canadian barley in 1984-85 to decline $8 to $12 per tonne to about $127.20 per tonne, in-store Thunder Bay or $113.50 net to the farmer in Edmonton. This will provide little or no final payment on barley.

For 1985-86, Mr. Couldwell says the situation is even more pessimistic. Portland prices have declined an additional $20 per tonne and Minneapolis prices $24. Since the barley initial payment to Canadian farmers has only declined by $15 per tonne, there is very little chance of any final payment whatsoever. Although prices are expected to gradually increase this season they are unlikely to rise sufficiently to allow a final payment on the 1985-86 barley crop.

Non board prices are also expected to remain depressed. Local Alberta feed prices are $115 to $119.40 per tonne ($2.50 to $2.60 per bu) in Lethbridge and represent very attractive premiums to the CWB's initial payment of $95 per tonne ($2.05 per bu).

Mr. Couldwell says that following last year's premium barley prices, farmers have been reluctant sellers at today's lower prices. This has caused a somewhat artificial shortage in the early portion of the season. The farmers are expected to reduce their expectations when lower final payments are made in January of 1986 and begin selling what will prove to be more than adequate supplies.

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Contact:

Dwayne Couldwell
427-5386

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November 25, 1985

For immediate release

Canadian rapeseed situation and outlook

The current outlook for oilseeds is one of continuing burdensome supplies, particularly meals. However, recent independent price strength in meal markets indicates that the worst may now be behind us, says Alberta Agriculture grains analyst, Dwayne Couldwell.

Canadian rapeseed acreage declined by 9.3 per cent in 1985. This decrease can be attributed to disease problems and farmers' frustration with volatile prices. The summer weather also affected rapeseed yields repeating the disappointing yields of 1984. The average yield in 1985 was estimated at 20.1 bushels per acre. The average yield in Alberta of 17.1 bushels per acre was the lowest level since 1974.

Demand for rapeseed is expected to soften again this year. "Another large crop from Europe will again limit not only sales in Europe but will also cut off Canadian exports to Middle Eastern markets," says Mr. Couldwell. "Japan last year took over 90 per cent of our exports and is expected again to import a record amount of rapeseed."

Domestic crushing of rapeseed is expected to decline this year as crush margins again are unattractive because of declining world oil prices and very narrow country basis levels.

Availability of seed will continue to be a problem for crushers as farmers are very reluctant to sell at today's prices. Domestic crush, therefore is forecast to decline two to three per cent and is placed at 1.250 million tonnes.

Final ending carryover is estimated at just over 600,000 tonnes and should increase rather than decrease as the year unfolds, says Mr. Couldwell.

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Canadian rapeseed situation and outlook (cont'd)

Rapeseed prices have steadily dropped lower to current levels of just over $265 per tonne or $6 per bushel.

Despite optimism that better markets will return in the new year, Mr. Couldwell notes that there are still more than adequate supplies of rapeseed in Canada to meet demand. Carryover will rise substantially due to poor export demand and competition from Europe. Price recovery will lag behind U.S. markets and basis levels can also be expected to widen quickly should any significant rally in price occur. It's advisable for producers wishing to wait for higher prices to sell their cash rapeseed at currently very narrow basis levels and replace these with a long futures position. Mr. Couldwell says this will allow farmers wishing to speculate on higher prices an opportunity to increase cash flow and profit from currently very narrow basis levels.

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Contact:

Dwayne Couldwell
427-5386

November 25, 1985

For immediate release

New Alberta Farm Fuel Distribution Allowance declaration procedure

Alberta farmers are reminded to file a "Declaration of Alberta Farmer" for the period January 1, 1986 to December 31, 1988 as soon as possible.

After December 31, 1985, farmers will need a new purple gas user identification number in order to buy marked fuel and get the $0.07 per litre rebate.

Alberta Treasury's improvements to the Alberta Farm Fuel Distribution Allowance (AFFDA) program have resulted in a simpler declaration procedure. Only one declaration form must be submitted directly to Alberta Treasury, once every three years. Bulk dealers will not handle the new forms at all, but will keep a supply of them on hand.

As of January 1, 1986, bulk dealers will not be authorized to sell marked fuel to farmers who do not have their new purple gas user identification number.

The new declaration forms were mailed to Alberta farmers in August 1985. However, if you need one, call 1-800-262-9069 (toll-free) or pick one up at a bulk dealer.

For further information contact: Alberta Treasury, Revenue Administration, 6th Floor, 9811-109 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 0C8, telephone 1-800-262-9069 toll free or 427-3044 in the Edmonton calling area.

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Contact:

Dale Moll
427-3044

November 25, 1985

For immediate release

Managing your time - the secret to an enjoyable Christmas

Christmas is just around the corner. That seemingly innocent phrase strikes fear into the hearts of many at this time of year. But don't despair, there is still time to save yourself some of the stress of the festive season.

Catherine Edge, Alberta Agriculture's food specialist offers these suggestions on how to manage your time to make Christmas more enjoyable.

Find a large piece of paper and write down everything you need to do before Christmas. Don't overlook a thing.

Now go down your list and mark each item with a letter to place it in one of four categories. "A" items are most important to your enjoyment of Christmas. "B" items are somewhat important. "C" items are slightly important, but "D" items could be left out.

If you have difficulty doing this then you need to think about what makes Christmas special to you. Is it spending time with friends, shopping for special gifts, or baking treats for the family? With these priorities in mind, you will find it easier to divide your list into the categories.

You are now prepared to break your large list into smaller lists for each week from now until Christmas. Don't make your lists so long that you would never get through them. Try to schedule blocks of "free" time to avoid feeling pressured. Aim for a balance on your lists of A,B,C and D items but if you need to drop anything, get rid of the D items.

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Managing your time - the secret to an enjoyable Christmas (cont'd)

Look at food preparation as an example. If spending time with family and friends is important to you, then you will want to spend as little time as possible on food preparation during the holidays. This means doing as much ahead of time as you can. Use the freezer to full advantage. Fill it with casseroles, main dish pies, soups and assorted cookies and squares. Ask family members to help with the baking, dishwashing and setting the table.

Thoughts of Christmas foods bring mixed feelings to most people. You eagerly anticipate the mincemeat pie, shortbread and Christmas cake. But you dread the temptation to overeat and the need to begin the New Year on a diet.

When you are a host or hostess, keep these mixed feelings in mind. Most guests appreciate a simple selection of food. They are more interested in visiting with you than sampling a wide array of goodies.

A hearty soup served with rolls makes an excellent cold weather meal for company. Or an invitation for fresh fruit and eggnog is just as flattering as being invited for a large meal. Don't feel that others expect you to entertain lavishly.

If you enjoy baking, then use your time to prepare your favorite Christmas dishes. The main thing is to spend your time doing the things you value. You will be more relaxed and your family and friends will appreciate and share your feelings of goodwill.

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Contact:

Catherine Edge
427-2412

November 25, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta Agriculture offers market garden course

Market gardeners can get the latest information on growing and marketing their produce at the market garden course organized by Alberta Agriculture.

The course is scheduled for January 14 to 16, 1986 in Red Deer.

"The courses are for people who grow vegetables or fruit commercially, or those considering going into the business. They are not for the home gardener," says Lloyd Hausher, market garden specialist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center (AHRC) at Brooks.

Topics to be covered during the first day of the three-day course include vegetable marketing, planning and management of a market garden, and equipment required and its availability. A workshop is planned to allow participants hands-on experience in planning a market garden.

Speakers on the second day will cover transplants, mulches and tunnels; vegetable varieties and culture; and vegetable storage and design. Established market gardeners will discuss their production and marketing practices. The day will wind up with a dinner featuring a producer as guest speaker.

The third day of the course will be devoted to accounting and taxation; weed, insect and disease control; and production of strawberries, raspberries and saskatoons. A workshop is also planned to give participants an opportunity to develop pest control plans.

The registration fee for the Red Deer courses will be $10 per person per day or $25 for the three days. The fee for the dinner alone will be $15. Advance registration is advisable.

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Alberta Agriculture offers market garden course (cont'd)

Registration forms and more information are available from: Lloyd Hausher, Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Bag Service 200, Brooks, Alberta, TOJ OJO (phone 362-3391); or from Phil Dixon, Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre, R.R.6, Edmonton, Alberta, T5B 4K3 (phone 973-3351).

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Contact:

Lloyd Hausher - 362-3391
Phil Dixon - 973-3351

November 25, 1985

For immediate release

Klinck lecturer to speak in Red Deer

As part of the Canada-wide 1985-86 Klinck Lectures, the Alberta Institute of Agrologists is sponsoring a public meeting on "Agriculture: International Engine of Economic Advance".

"The only reliable engine of economic and social development is agriculture," says Dr. Joseph Hulse, the 1985-86 Klinck lecturer, who will be speaking in Red Deer on December 3, 1985.

Dr. Hulse is vice-president, research programs, International Development Research Centre, Ottawa. He has been the recipient of many awards for his work in international development in food science, including the 1983 Medal of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

The meeting is open to the general public and will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Black Knight Inn, Red Deer. There is no cost.

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Contact:

Peter Funk
340-5365

November 25, 1985

For immediate release

Taxation in tough times

To make the most of your farm management team, plan to attend Alberta Agriculture's *Taxation in Tough Times.* "The session will look at recent farm tax changes and their implications to Alberta producers," says Peter Funk, district agriculturist at Red Deer.

Two sessions are scheduled: one will be held Wednesday, December 4, at the Evergreen Hall, and the other on Thursday, December 5, at the Red Deer Westerner Altaplex. Both sessions are identical and will run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The cost is $15 per person or $20 per couple including lunch. For further information contact Alberta Agriculture's Red Deer office, 340-5364.

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Contact:

Peter Funk
340-5364

November 25, 1985

For immediate release

Entomologist appointed at Vegreville

Hugh Philip, head of the crop protection group at the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville, has announced the appointment of Mr. Richard Butts to the position of head of the entomology section.

As section head, Mr. Butts will supervise the insect pest research and diagnostic/extension services of the section. He will also be responsible for conducting applied research on economically important insect pests of field crops in Alberta.

Before joining the centre, Mr. Butts was employed by Alberta Agriculture as a regional entomologist at the regional crops laboratory in Fairview.

Mr. Butts earned his B.Sc. in environmental biology and his M.Sc. in entomology at the University of Guelph. He is a member of the Entomological Societies of Alberta, Canada, and America, and of the Canadian Pest Management Society.

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Contact:

Richard Butts
632-6761 Ext.286

December 9, 1985

For immediate release

District agriculturist appointed at Red Deer

Lorne Turner has joined Alberta Agriculture's Red Deer office as district agriculturist. The appointment which was effective November 1, 1985 was announced by Alan Hall, director of Alberta Agriculture's north-central region.

Mr. Turner graduated in agriculture from the University of Alberta in 1980 with a major in animal science. He has worked as a district agriculturist at Westlock, Olds, High River and Rimbey and is currently farming in the Eckville area.

"His efforts will supplement those of Peter Funk who is the full-time district agriculturist," says Mr. Hall. "He will be working with the department until April 1, 1986."

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Contact:

Lorne Turner
340-5364

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AGRI-NEWS

December 2, 1985

For immediate release

This Week

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

December 2, 1985

For immediate release

New agricultural assistance programs announced

The province has announced two new agricultural assistance programs worth $212 million in farm aid. The initiatives were announced on November 21, 1985 by Premier Don Getty and Agriculture Minister LeRoy Fjordbotten.

Mr. Getty said the aid programs are an attempt to deal with short-term problems caused by a combination of drought, frost, grasshoppers and untimely rain.

The money will go into two programs: the existing farm fuel distribution allowance and a livestock assistance program.

The Supplemental Alberta Livestock Assistance Program is a one-time program that will provide all Alberta livestock producers, regardless of location, cash assistance of $75 per eligible breeding cow and equivalent amounts for other qualifying stock. The program is estimated to cost $62.9 million.

Mr. Fjordbotten said that as a result of this increased support the Alberta Feed Freight Assistance Program 1985/86, which was announced in September will be eliminated.

The Alberta Farm Fuel Distribution Allowance (AFFDA) will be doubled. It is now seven cents per litre and will increase to 14 cents per litre retroactive to January 1, 1985 and will continue to March 31, 1987.

(cont'd)

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The doubling of the benefit to 14 cents per litre will result in total savings to the average Alberta farmer of approximately $3,000 per year under the AFFDA and will cost the provincial government about an additional $150 million over the life of the expanded program.

All Albertans including farmers pay no provincial tax on gasoline or diesel fuel tax. The AFFDA benefit is unique to Canada. It is a major help to farmers in light of current cash flow difficulties in that it provides a cash discount up front on farm fuel, a major farm input cost.

"The 14 cents a litre is roughly 30 per cent of the cost of fuel. That will go a long way to helping producers be more viable and more competitive," said Mr. Fjordbotten.

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Contact:

Jim Armet
Executive Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture
427-2137

December 2, 1985

For immediate release

Crested wheat grass seed supplies short in 1986

Supplies of crested wheat grass seed will be very scarce for spring planting in 1986 due to extreme drought conditions in the seed production areas of Canada and the United States during the last two years. Along with low supplies, the prices will be very high.

"Crested wheat grass is used for hay, pasture and reclamation in most parts of Alberta, but it is especially important in the Brown and Dark Brown soil zones of southeastern Alberta," says Myron Bjorge, with Alberta Agriculture's field crops branch in Lacombe. He advises anyone wanting to secure supplies of seed to do so early.

Good management, which stretches the total supply of crested wheat grass seed, should be used. This includes making efficient use of the seed purchased to minimize the amount required. Seedbeds should be very firm with early planting and minimal shallow spring tillage to make the best use of moisture. Seed drills which plant to a uniform depth (0.5 to 1 in) and space within rows are most efficient. Drills with depth control bands are desirable to obtain accurate depth control. The use of wide row spacings conserves seed and improves forage yield at the same time. A row space of 18 to 24 inches is desirable in the Brown soil zone and a space of 12 to 18 inches is desirable in the Dark Brown soil zone, says Mr. Bjorge. He notes that using 24-inch rows and a seeding density of 25 seeds per foot of row -- the density recommended for all row spacings-- requires only 1.5 to 2 lb/ac of seed while the use of 12-inch rows requires 3 to 3.5 lb/ac of seed. This is assuming good seedbed preparation, high germination seed, and precision seeding in both examples.

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Crested wheat grass seed supplies short in 1986 (cont'd)

In many cases crested wheat grass can be substituted for by planting other crops. Mr. Bjorge says it is generally most effective to plant other grasses in separate fields rather than to plant complicated mixtures in an attempt to stretch the crested wheat grass over a greater acreage. Russian wild rye and Altai wild rye are well adapted for pasture use in the drier areas of Alberta. When used along with existing stands of crested wheat grass, they will give improved distribution of growth. Northern and western wheat grass can be used for hay or pasture in these areas. In all but the driest areas of Alberta (i.e, Brown Soil zone) pubescent wheat grass and intermediate wheat grass can be used to produce high yielding stands of medium longevity for hay and pasture.

Another method suggested by Mr. Bjorge to stretch crested wheat grass supplies is to include alfalfa in mixtures. This is especially effective if wide spaced alternate rows of crested wheat grass and alfalfa are used. Crested wheat grass is recommended for use in mixtures with Drylander, Heinrichs, Kane, Rambler, Rangelander, and Roamer alfalfa in the Brown and Dark Brown soil zones. The alfalfa component can be 1 lb/ac for pasture or 2 lb/ac for hay in these zones.

For roadside seeding in the Brown and Dark Brown soil zones, streambank wheat grass is actually preferred over crested wheat grass because of its creeping roots. Other grasses such as northern and western wheat grass are also useful for roadside seeding and other reclamation uses.

(cont'd)

Crested wheat grass seed supplies short in 1986 (cont'd)

For more information obtain Alberta Agriculture's factsheet, *Varieties of Perennial Hay and Pasture Crops for Alberta*, Agdex FS120/32. It's available from district offices or the Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact:

Myron Bjorge
782-4641 or 423-4214

December 2, 1985

For immediate release

Deadline approaching for Alberta red meat interim insurance payment

Producers are reminded that January 15, 1986 is the deadline to apply for payments under the Alberta Red Meat Interim Insurance Payment Program which was announced October 15, 1985.

The program makes payments on a per head basis for slaughter hogs and slaughter cattle sold from April 1, 1985 through September 30, 1985 based on the principles of the national tripartite red meat stabilization proposal.

The payments to be made in full by the Alberta government include federal government amounts announced November 19 as payments under the Canada Agricultural Stabilization Act (ASA). The schedule of payments is as follows on a per head basis:

	Alberta share	Federal share	Total payment per head
Hog sold April 1 - June 30/85	$ 8.09	$ 2.02	$10.11
Hogs sold July 1 - Sept 30/85	$ 9.79	$ 4.51	$14.30
Slaughter cattle sold April 1 - June 30/85	$22.86	$ 0.00	$22.86
Slaughter cattle sold July 1 - Sept 30/85	$51.53	$28.22	$79.75

Further details, brochures and application forms are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices.

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Contact:

F. Schuld
422-0137

December 2, 1985

For immediate release

Prepare your financial plan for 1986 now!

The years 1984 and 1985 will not be remembered fondly by most Alberta farmers. Farm cash flows continue to be squeezed as Mother Nature compounded the problems of the marketplace with less than optimal growing and harvesting weather.

However, according to George Maicher of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch, most farm managers are coping so far. "Many were able to tighten up management, reduce costs, postpone capital purchases and fall back on reserves wisely built up during better years", he says.

But now most are faced with a continuation of the squeeze and more liquidity problems will arise on many farms. Reduced on-farm grain carryover and sharply increased numbers of cows and heifers going to slaughter has led to a severe reduction in financial reserves. It is expected that more farmers will have problems raising enough cash to farm in the usual way in 1986 as the adequate crop hoped for in 1985 has not materialized.

To add to the problem, a lot of the money raised from inventory liquidation had to be used to pay off loans and loan arrears. Since only the interest portion of a loan payment is tax deductible, by selling grain inventory and breeding cows many farmers will be faced with sizable tax liabilities despite low disposable income in 1986. Moreover, reduced or no grain inventories and smaller livestock numbers can lead to difficulties in obtaining a large enough operating loan from lenders, since little or no collateral is left to be pledged as security against that loan.

(cont'd)

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Prepare your financial plan for 1986 now! (cont'd)

A wise, forward-looking farm manager will take inventory of his resources, verify his financial situation, and lay out his financial and production plans for 1986 now, says Mr. Maicher.

Good records are of utmost importance for a realistic planning process; planning with inadequate records is little more than guesswork. Tax records alone are usually inadequate for this task, as there is need for some additional material for this process. The planning process should include cash flows for worst, best and most likely outcomes. Outlining 1986 this way will help you tell what kind of squeeze you will be able to endure.

Next, take your up-to-date records and plans for next year and consult with a professional adviser. This step will be even more important if you expect a sizable tax liability and few funds to pay it in 1986. A good accountant, well versed in farm tax matters, can help you to sort out your options to carry as many of the funds as possible into 1986 without incurring an undue tax liability. Be prepared to listen to their professional advice and make changes to your operation if necessary. The factsheet, *Is 1985 The Year for Tax Planning?*, Agdex 837-20, will give you more hints on how to do your year-end tax planning.

Since you'll need your plans when you negotiate for an operating loan, they should be able to stand up to the lender's scrutiny. So do a good job of questioning, inspecting and justifying all parts of it. A lender will see your sound planning as a positive effort and recognize it as being in his, as well as your, best interest. Lenders don't like surprises, so keep them informed.

(cont'd)

Prepare your financial plan for 1986 now! (cont'd)

There are usually several ways to obtain operating funds in any particular situation. However, successful managers are often superior financial managers who realize that the time for planning is now, and that the situation on their own farm is usually unique. The faster a manager acts, the better the chances for success he will have.

When preparing your operating plan for 1986, take a hard look at the individual enterprises on your farm. Early detection of potential problems is necessary for your business' survival. To recognize these problems and adjust your management decisions accordingly requires a sound and adequate record keeping system.

Should you detect chronic low returns in an enterprise then be prepared to liquidate this part of your operation. Use the cash you may realize from selling the assets to pay down debt or to increase your financial liquidity.

Spell out and write down the sacrifices you and your family are prepared to make, and for how long you expect to make these sacrifices. As soon as your family knows the extent and length of the sacrifices they may have to make, they will be able to endure them a bit more readily. Often, individuals in stressful situations will experience attitude changes such as being more willing to accept risk and to try to recover losses quickly. Such attitude changes should be guarded against.

Here's a summary of what you will need to do to get a head start on planning 1986 now:

1. Determine the cause and extent of possible cash shortages.
2. Review possible options available to you by consulting records and planning ahead.

(cont'd)

Prepare your financial plan for 1986 now! (cont'd)

3. Review alternatives up to last resorts.

4. Seek professional assistance by talking to your accountant, lawyer, regional farm economist and lender.

Here are some of the publications from Alberta Agriculture which may assist you in these tasks:

- *Tax Management Strategies, Agdex 837*
- *Financial Management Package, Agdex 810*
- *Investigating Sources of Profit I and II, Agdex 812-12 & 13*
- *Control Your Financial Future By Analyzing Your Farm's Finances, Agdex 818-15*
- *Controlling Farm Input Costs, Agdex 818-21*
- *Managing Your Working Capital, Agdex 818-18*
- *The 3 Cs and 3Rs of Credit, Agdex 832-05*
- *Make Full Use of Your Farm Tax Return, Agdex 837-19*
- *Determining Your Financial Position With a Balance Sheet, Agdex 818-30*
- *Make Your Accountant a Partner in Your Farm Management Team, Agdex 818-28*
- *Analyzing a Farm Business, Agdex 818-26*

Contact:

George Maicher
556-4249

December 2, 1985

For immediate release

Custom grain harvesting rates for 1985

Custom grain harvesting rates for 1985 decreased according to the annual survey conducted by Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch and the farm business management branch. The survey was conducted in September and October of this year.

The actual rates were obtained from custom operators in the six regions. Region 1 consists of the area from the American border to High River; region 2, from High River to Olds; region 3, from Olds to Camrose; region 4, from Camrose to Fort McMurray and east; region 5, from Camrose to Athabasca and west; and region 6, the Peace River region. The table below is a summary of custom combining rates.

Combining ($ per acre and $ per hour)

Region	Most Common 1985 Charges	Most Common 1984 Charges	Range for 1985
1	$14-$20/ac**	$15/ac	$12-$21/ac
2	$10-$13/ac	$12-$18/ac	$10-$13/ac
	$95/hr*	-	$95/hr*
3	$12-$13/ac	-	$12-$13/ac
	$70-$100/hr	$95-$110/hr	$70-$100/hr
4	$12-$15/ac	$15/ac	$12-$15/ac
	$90/hr	-	$90/hr
5	$12/ac*	-	$12/ac*
	$55-$85/hr	$65-$125/hr	$55-$85/hr
6	$12/ac*	-	$12/ac*
	$75-$110/hr	$85-$100/hr	$75-$110/hr

* One report

** Higher rates reflect irrigated land

(cont'd)

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Custom grain harvesting rates for 1985 (cont'd)

Gerd Andres, Alberta Agriculture's farm management specialist in the area of custom rates, says this year, as last year, half of the operators surveyed charged on an hourly rate and the other half charged on a per acre basis. Among the custom rates quoted on an hourly basis, Mr. Andres says the higher hourly rate reflected greater combine capacity than the lower rates.

For operations that involve combining and hauling grain to bin, the survey showed an additional cost of $2-$3 per acre or $10-$20 per hour to those of the previous table.

The survey also showed that straight combining ranged from $10-$13.50 per acre in 1985, with the most common charge being $12 per acre for non-irrigated land and ranging up to $18 per acre for irrigated land.

Swathing costs ranged form $3-$7 per acre or $38-$45 per hour with the most common charge being $4-$6 per acre in 1985.

Drying costs ranged from $22-$130 per hour with the most common charge being $35-$60 per hour. Drying capacity ranged from $150-$650 bushels with the most common capacity being 200 to 400 bushels an hour. Mr. Andres says that the higher custom charge for drying corresponds to the higher capacity of the dryers.

Additional information on custom rates for all operations can be obtained from district agriculturists, Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch in Edmonton at 427-4018, or the department's farm business management branch in Olds at 556-4247.

Contact:

Gerd Andres
Farm Planning Section, Olds 556-4247 or RITE 154-1247

December 2, 1985

For immediate release

Grey water recycling unit needs fine tuning

In some parts of Alberta that suffer from severe water shortages, the problem can be alleviated by recycling domestic grey water. Grey water recycling involves the recovery and storage of waste laundry and bathtub water for use in flushing toilets and watering plants, says Archie Archampong, a water engineer with Alberta Agriculture.

Usually people that face severe water shortage problems build their own recycling units from scratch. In Alberta, however, there is one company that manufactures a unit called "Little Barrel" that can be purchased for installation in homes.

The unit consists of a 45-gallon plastic barrel, a lint screen, an ultra-violet tube, a pump and piping systems. The lint screen separates coarse sediments such as lint, hair and any other debris from the grey water. The ultra-violet light is installed to control odor-producing bacteria that might foul up the water.

The manufacturer claims that the unit works satisfactorily and can save up to 45 per cent of year-round water requirements. The suggested retail price of the Little Barrel is over $700, plus the cost of plumbing supplies and labor for hooking it up to the toilet.

Mr. Archampong says the Little Barrel concept is a good idea but it requires some fine tuning. "The lint screen can plug up quickly depending on the sediment load of the grey water. The manufacturer tried to get around this problem by introducing a disposable screen contraption but the subsequent extra costs are discouraging," he says.

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Grey water recycling unit needs fine tuning (cont'd)

The chief plumbing inspector with Alberta Labour has concerns about crossconnections between the greywater and the potable water system. The problem can be eliminated by redesigning the system to include a backflow preventer. It is also necessary to allow an air gap between the potable water inlet and the maximum water level in the barrel.

The effectiveness of ultra-violet light is greatly limited by poor water clarity and settlement of suspended matter on the tube. One may soon discover that chemical disinfection, such as chlorination, may be required to control odor-producing bacteria in the grey water.

For further information on grey water recycling contact your regional engineering technologist or district agriculturist.

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Contact:

Archie Archampong
427-2181

December 2, 1985

For immediate release

Deadline for directory of farm custom operators

Farm custom operators who would like to be listed in the 1986 edition of Alberta Agriculture's directory of custom operators should contact the farm business management branch by **December 31, 1985.**

The directory, which will be available next spring, lists custom operators in seven categories: haying, silage, grain, cultivation, applications, livestock, and land clearing and breaking.

Each listing includes the operator's name, telephone number, nearest town, and the type of work done. The directory assists farmers in locating local custom operators, and offers some publicity for the operators. The directory is a free publication.

This is the third year for the publication and distribution is expected to reach 9,000.

Operators who are listed in the current directory will not be included in the 1986 edition unless they notify the farm business management branch before December 31, 1985.

Operators who want to be listed should contact Lori Riabko at the farm business management branch at 556-4240, or write to the branch at Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0.

Farmers interested in receiving a copy of the directory can contact the branch to have their names placed on the mailing list.

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Contact:

Lori Riabko
556-4240

December 2, 1985

For immediate release

Disease-resistant alfalfa varieties

Disease-resistant varieties offer effective, long-term control of important alfalfa diseases such as verticillium and bacterial wilt, says Dr. M.R. Hanna, an alfalfa breeder with the Lethbridge Research Station.

Verticillium wilt of alfalfa, first detected in a few fields in Alberta in 1980, has since gained a firm hold in several irrigated districts in southern Alberta, especially in the Lethbridge-Taber area. The disease is also a serious problem in southern British Columbia and Ontario. At the Lethbridge Research Station, staff are developing disease-resistant varieties that are suitable for growing conditions in western Canada.

According to Dr. Hanna, the benefits of growing a resistant variety are not obvious during the early life of an alfalfa stand. Verticillium wilt or bacterial wilt usually do little damage until fields are at least two or three years old. Thereafter, yields may be reduced and the productive life of alfalfa stands may be shortened by as much as 50 per cent, especially in fields ravaged by verticillium wilt.

The slow, early progression and subsequent rapid development of the two wilt diseases have been evident in a yield trial established at Creston, British Columbia in 1981 and harvested during the past four years. In 1982 and 1983, two alfalfa strains developed at Lethbridge for resistance to both diseases yielded about the same as the variety Anchor, which is resistant only to bacterial wilt. However, in 1984 and 1985, the Lethbridge strains outyielded Anchor by about 40 per cent and 60 per cent respectively, reports Dr. Hanna. A Swedish variety,

(cont'd)

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Disease-resistant alfalfa varieties (cont'd)

which is resistant only to verticillium wilt, also yielded about the same as the Lethbridge strains in 1982 and 1983, but yielded 10 per cent less in 1984 and 45 per cent less in 1985.

Dr. Hanna says these results indicate that both wilt diseases are causing serious yield losses in the Creston area but that verticillium wilt has had the most severe effect and has developed more rapidly than bacterial wilt. Observations on disease symptoms have supported these conclusions. The results also underline the need to test new varieties for several years before their adaptation and resistance to diseases can be properly assessed.

In the meantime, several alfalfa varieties from the United States with moderate resistance to both verticillium wilt and bacterial wilt have been licensed in Canada. In addition, the Lethbridge Research Station expects to release a new variety this winter. It will have high resistance to both diseases and good yield potential under disease-stress conditions.

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Contact:

Dr. M.R. Hanna
327-4561

December 2, 1985

For immediate release

First Alberta farm women's conference

Helen Hunley and Connie Osterman headline the first province-wide farm women's conference, January 16 to 18, in Red Deer.

Alberta's Lieutenant Governor and Minister for Consumer and Corporate Affairs will be joined by other speakers including David Elton, Canada West Foundation president and Drs. Maryanne Daherty and Norah Keating of the University of Alberta.

The conference will discuss current needs, strengths and information for farm women.

Topics include: the changing roles of farm men and women, the need for social services in the rural community, using bankers, lawyers and accountants and the need for unity of purpose among farm women.

The conference has become province-wide to reach farm women from all areas and segments of agriculture in Alberta. "We want to involve farm women and show them how they can bring the agriculture industry together for a sharing of ideas and unity of purposes," says Gwen Jackson, conference coordinator.

"Regional conferences are held regularly throughout the province, but now it is time to bring the information from the regions together to one central conference to pool our resources and concerns," says Ms. Jackson.

(cont'd)

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First Alberta farm women's conference (cont'd)

The early bird registration fee for the conference is $40; after December 23, it will be $50. Registration forms are available from Gwen Jackson, Site 16, Box 10, R.R.7, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2G7, telephone: 936-5705.

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Contact:

Gwen Jackson
936-5705

December 2, 1985

For immediate release

New district agriculturist at Ponoka

Alan Hall, director for Alberta Agriculture's north-central region has announced the appointment of Brian Cameron as district agriculturist at Ponoka. The appointment was effective October 21.

Mr. Cameron, a native of Ontario, has spent considerable time in Alberta working as a farm management consultant and as an agrologist with Alberta Agriculture's dairy division in Red Deer.

Mr. Cameron graduated from the University of Guelph in 1981 with a B.Sc. in agriculture, majoring in animal science.

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Contact:

Brian Cameron
783-4476

December 2, 1985

For immediate release

New meat hygiene supervisor at Airdrie

Dr. G.W. Summers, head of Alberta Agriculture's meat hygiene branch, has announced the appointment of John Alwood as the new supervisor of meat hygiene for region 2 located in Airdrie.

Mr. Alwood has 17 years of experience as a meat inspector with both Agriculture Canada and Alberta Agriculture. For the past five years he has been a meat hygiene inspector in Airdrie.

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Contact:

John Alwood
948-6868

AL 1.697

AGRI-NEWS

December 9, 1985

For immediate release

This Week

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December 9, 1985

For immediate release

Custom long distance grain hauling rates for 1985

Custom long distance grain hauling rates increased slightly in 1985 over 1984, according to the annual survey conducted by Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch and the farm business management branch. The survey was conducted in September and October of this year.

The actual rates were obtained from operators in the six regions. Region 1 consists of the area from the American border to High River; region 2, from High River to Olds; region 3, from Olds to Camrose; region 4, from Camrose to Fort McMurray and east; region 5, from Camrose to Athabasca and west; and region 6, the Peace River region.

The following table summarizes the rates for each region.

Grain Hauling (7-38 ton trucks) $ per tonne

Region	Miles			
	0-25	26-50	51-100	Over 100
1				
Range	$3-$7.50	$5.75-$10	$6.98*	$4.85-$12
Most Common	$4.50-$5.75	$6.25-$7.75	--	$6.75-$10.10
2				
Range	$4.80-$6.73	$4.96-$8.06	$10.67-$11.50	$1.40/running mile
	$2.50-$3/lmi	$2.50-$3/lmi	$2.50-$3/lmi	--
Most Common	--	$5.50-$7.60	--	--
3				
Range	$3.70-$6.45	$5.53-$7.80	$8.09-$10.10	$10.85-$22.36
Most Common	$4-$6	$6-$7.35	--	(up to 350 miles)

(cont'd)

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Custom long distance grain hauling rates for 1985 (cont'd)

Grain Hauling (7-38 ton trucks) $ per tonne

Region				Miles
4				
Range	$3.50-$5.77	$5.72-$7.02	$6.82-$8.32	$10.24-$14.16
Most Common	$4-$5.77	--	--	--
5				
Range	$7.80*	$5.72-$8	$55/hr*	$10.67*
	$150/load*	--	--	$2.50/lmi
6				
Range	$5.60*	$5.90-$7	$8.50	$10.50-$27.50 (up to 320 miles)

* one report

Gerd Andres, Alberta Agriculture's farm management economist at Olds, says that the variation in long-distance hauling rates within each category is due to the miles travelled and thus the overlapping of rates among the mile categories listed.

Additional information on custom rates for all operations can be obtained from district agriculturists, Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch in Edmonton at 427-4018, or the department's farm business management branch in Olds at 556-4277.

Contact:

Gerd Andres
556-4227 or RITE 154-1277

December 9, 1985

For immediate release

Financial Security and the Farm Family series introduced

Many farm families depend on increasing the equity in their farm business for their financial security. However, to complement the growth of the farm, families should consider aspects of family financial planning too.

Financial planning can bring you financial security. To help with that financial planning, Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch has introduced a series of factsheets called, *Financial Security and the Farm Family.*

Jean Wilson, the branch's family resource management specialist, says the nine-part series was developed to help families take steps towards becoming more financially secure through financial planning.

A major part of financial planning is simply knowing what you want to accomplish. The plan may be to simply have enough money to cover daily living expenses. It may be to pay off the loan on the farm or pay for the machinery you bought last year. It could be setting aside a tidy sum for your retirement or your children's education. The other part of financial planning is figuring out what you own, what you owe, where your money comes from and where it goes, then making the changes that will help you accomplish what you want to.

The series helps farm families accomplish this by dealing with nine different areas of financial security. Here are the titles:

Introduction to Financial Planning, Homedex 1815-10-1

Budgeting, Homedex 1815-20-1

(cont'd)

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Financial Security and the Farm Family series introduced (cont'd)

Handling Income, Homedex 1820-10

Savings, Homedex 1820-2

Banks: Use Them to Your Advantage, Homedex 1820-1

Credit: Use Only as Directed, Homedex 1822-70

Insurance: Risk Management, Homedex 1822-65-1

Planning Your Estate, Homedex 1833-30

Protect Family Security: Make a Will, Homedex 1833-20

They are available from Alberta Agriculture's district offices or from the Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact:

Jean Wilson
427-2412

December 9, 1985

For immediate release

Mineral rights and tax implications -- what farmers should know

Many farmers and other individuals who own oil, gas and mineral rights could encounter serious income tax liabilities when ownership of these rights changes through a transfer by sale, gift or bequest. This concern was raised by Gordon Thompson of Touche Ross & Company, chartered accountants, in a letter to Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch.

"Individual cases should be examined and the extent of the liability determined so that suitable tax and estate planning can be put in place," says Douglas Duff with the branch. "Otherwise a significant tax burden and possibility of insufficient funds to cover the liability could arise."

The taxation system has handled resource properties, such as mineral rights, differently over the years. At one time, transactions of resource properties were considered to be capital transactions. The rules gradually changed to allow the purchases of resource properties to be treated as expenses and dispositions as income. Present tax law requires resource properties that are sold, gifted or bequested to be considered disposed of at fair market value. The difference between the purchase cost (adjusted cost base) and the fair market value is treated as income.

The rollover provisions of the Income Tax Act can apply to transfers of resource properties, but only in the case of transfers to the taxpayer's spouse or to a spouse trust. In this

(cont'd)

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case, the transfer may take place at any elected amount between cost base and fair market value of the property.

Specific problems occur with the transfer or bequesting of resource properties to other than a spouse or spouse trust. Transfer of resource properties to children, and taxpayers other than the spouse, must take place at fair market value. The proceeds of the transfer must be included in the income calculation of the transfer or even if funds were not received, as in the case of gifting or bequesting the property.

Mr. Duff says taxpayers can take measures to reduce the tax liability. For example, the income from proceeds of disposition of resource properties could be spread over time by disposing of undivided percentage interests by several agreements over a period of years. On the death of a taxpayer, where resource properties are deemed to have been disposed of, the executor of the estate may elect to pay tax, plus interest, in up to 10 equal annual installments, provided acceptable security has been furnished to the Minister of Revenue.

Establishing the market value of resource properties is critical when making tax and estate plans. The value depends on the proximity of oil and/or gas production to the particular property and the projected income from the resource property for the estimated life of the field.

"It's quite apparent that if you own resource properties, you could face substantial income tax liabilities upon the sale or deemed disposition of these properties," says Mr. Duff.

(cont'd)

Mineral rights and tax implications -- what farmers should know (cont'd)

Individual cases should be looked at to determine the extent of the liability and the appropriate estate and tax planning measures should be taken. Seek accounting and legal advice if you're considering selling or transferring resource properties, he advises.

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Contact:

Douglas Duff

556-4240

December 9, 1985

For immediate release

Dairy Herd Improvement (DHI) record analysis service

The dairy division of Alberta Agriculture has announced the introduction of a valuable new service to Alberta dairy producers. Producers enrolled on the Dairy Herd Improvement (DHI) service can now receive a regular analysis of their records.

"This analysis will aid producers in the identification of potential herd concerns, decision making and planning," says Brian Rhiness with Alberta Agriculture's dairy division in Wetaskiwin.

The report will contain a detailed summary of management related information, comparisons to provincial averages/standards, herd trends and recommendations for action.

Mr. Rhiness says once enrolled on the service producers will automatically receive their herd analysis every six months or yearly if preferred.

Since this information will be useful to veterinarians, lenders and private consultants , copies can be sent to these individuals on the producer's request.

Applications can be obtained from your district agriculturist, Alberta dairy herd improvement services technician or by calling the dairy division at 352-1223.

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Contact:

Brian Rhiness
352-1223

December 9, 1985

For immediate release

Determining your financial condition with a balance sheet

Today's tough economic conditions are making many farm businesses walk a financial "tight wire". Poor market conditions and devalued assets on one side, combined with high debt loads on the other, are making the balancing act difficult. Alberta's farmers are being challenged to understand how these conditions have changed the financial structure of their businesses and determine how they can best deal with the instability.

Ultimately the key to meeting this challenge will be through good financial management, says Douglas Duff with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch. But first he says, a solid financial reporting system is needed.

One of the cornerstone financial statements is the balance sheet. A balance sheet is almost always required by creditors when applications for credit are being considered. Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch has published *Determining your financial condition with a balance sheet* (Agdex 818-30), which provides assistance when preparing the statement. The publication, along with a worksheet is included in the Farm Financial Fitness package.

A balance sheet is divided into two halves. One side is for listing what is owned, or assets. The other side is for reporting liabilities or what is owed. When assets and liabilities are compared, the difference represents the owner's equity. The term, balance sheet, is used because the equation showing liabilities plus owner's equity equals or balances with assets. Owner's equity represents the owners claim in the business. When one balance sheet is

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Determining your financial condition with a balance sheet (cont'd)

compared with another, the amount of equity and changes in equity, are excellent indicators of financial strength and progress.

Determining your financial condition with a balance sheet describes other characteristics of a balance sheet and provides guidelines for preparing the statement. Methods of valuing assets such as land, machinery and commodities are given. A simple method of preparing a depreciation schedule is outlined. Liabilities are often improperly reported and the publication describes a suggested reporting procedure.

An additional statement to the balance sheet, called the confirmation of change of equity, is provided to ensure accuracy of information and to identify reasons for change in owner's equity when comparing balance sheets. Information from an income statement is required to use this feature. A net farm income statement is the measure of earnings of a business over a specified period of time. An income statement and balance sheet together provide the foundation for a complete financial analysis. Assistance for developing a net farm income statement is also included in the Farm Financial Fitness package.

The final part of *Determining your financial condition with a balance sheet* provides an explanation of the ratios that are typically used to analyze information provided in a balance sheet. These ratios flag possible strengths and weaknesses in your business.

The Farm Financial Fitness package is available from Alberta Agriculture's district offices and the farm business management branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO.

Contact:

Douglas Duff
556-4240

December 9, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta Horse Breeders Conference features international horse breeder

On January 18 and 19, 1986 Alberta horse breeders will have the opportunity to speak with an international figure who is directly in charge of horse breeding for an entire country. Dr. Hanfred Haring, director of breeding for the West German Equestrian Federation will be introductory speaker at the third annual Alberta Horse Breeders Conference in Red Deer.

For many years Dr. Haring has been involved in the selection and breeding of German sport horses which have gained international prominence as show jumping and dressage horses.

Drawing upon his 30 years of experience in horse selection and mating to develop some of the world's most sought after sport horses, Dr. Haring will discuss with local breeders how to establish a selection system to attain a desired goal regardless of breed. He will also give a presentation specifically for Alberta sport horse breeders.

The conference will also feature 14 other speakers who will share their expertise in horse breeding.

Peter Cameron from St. Catharines, Ontario, one of the most respected judges of horse flesh in the world, will discuss," "What is the show ring doing to the Arabian horse?"

"It's an interesting topic that affects every Arabian horse breeder," says Bob Coleman of Alberta Agriculture's horse industry branch. "Trends and standards set in the show ring are used to judge and value quality horses."

Mr. Coleman says panel discussions will be an important part of the program this year.

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Alberta Horse Breeders Conference features international horse breeder (cont'd)

"Selecting Profitable Breeding Stock" will be of interest to Quarter horse breeders. It will offer discussions by Roy Browning of Fort Worth, Texas, a leading breeder of running Quarter horses; Cyril Desjarlais, a Quarter horse breeder from Edmonton; and Doug Milligan of Alberta Agriculture's horse industry branch.

Standardbred breeders will be afforded the same opportunity with a panel headed by Margaret Neal of Toronto and Doug Arthur of Norwich, Ontario. For horsemen interested in training horses, Mr. Arthur will make a presentation on "Principles of Interval Training".

Thoroughbred breeders will benefit from the presentation of "Relationship of Pedigree and Performance" by Steve Roman of Richmond, Texas.

For breeders of Appaloosa horses, research results of color production in the Appaloosa horse in Canada, presented by Les Burwash of the horse industry branch, will be timely. "Color production has been a problem in this breed and recent research will definitely enhance breeders' success," says Mr. Burwash.

To register in the Alberta Horse Breeders Conference contact: Les Burwash, #205, 2003 McKnight Boulevard, N.E., Calgary, T2E 6L2, telephone: 291-4596 or Bob Coleman in Edmonton, telephone: 427-8905.

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Contact:

Les Burwash or Bob Coleman
291-4596 427-8905

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AGRI-NEWS

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December 16, 1985

For immediate release

This Week

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December 16, 1985

For immediate release

Government to oversee provincial pig sales

Premier Don Getty and Vern Meek, Chairman of the Alberta Pork Producers Marketing Board, announced on December 5, 1985 an agreement whereby a government representative will conduct the selling and allocating of Alberta hogs for 60 days. Under the agreement, the government will guarantee to preserve the integrity of the hog plan and enforce any breach of the regulations by any processor.

"All three parties have agreed to this arrangement to allow the current difficulties in the selling and allocating of Alberta hogs to settle down," said Premier Getty.

The legal and contractual framework of the selling system will be that buyers will submit tenders to purchase hogs and the acceptance by the government representative of those bids will be based on price superiority within each bid session. Tenders will not be accepted below the minimum price range determined from time to time by the board within the 60 day period.

Gainers has agreed to settle past debts to the board. Gainers will also be on the same payment terms as Fletchers and will stop all legal actions or appeals against the board during the 60-day period.

The board meanwhile has agreed not to sign any exclusive contracts with any processor during the 60-day period, as long as there are two or more major buyers active in the market.

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Government to oversee provincial pig sales (cont'd)

Under the agreement the government will guarantee the integrity of the selling system beyond the 60-day period, if it finds the system to be fair and equitable.

The firm of Peat Marwick and Partners began conducting hog sales and allocations on December 6, 1985. As the neutral observer they will determine if the present system is fair to both Gainers and the board.

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Contact:

Geoff Davey
News Secretary
Office of the Premier
(403) 427-2251

or

Jim Armet
Executive Assistant
Minister of Agriculture
(403) 427-2137

December 16, 1985

For immediate release

Harvest and feed situation

The results of a special harvest and feed situation survey have just been published by the statistics branch of Alberta Agriculture. Some of the findings are discussed below.

In Alberta, 92 per cent of the harvest has been completed, with the balance to remain out over winter, says crops statistician, Rodney Dlugos. Of the estimated 1.4 million acres remaining, about one-half lies in the Peace River region and one-quarter in the northeast region. The balance lies in the northwest, north central and south central regions.

This past summer, dry conditions persisted through much of the southern, central and Peace River regions, resulting in reduced hay and straw production. Provincially, about 50 per cent of the districts report adequate feed and straw supplies with an additional nine per cent expecting a surplus. Feed grain supplies fare slightly better with 53 per cent of the respondents having adequate supplies and an additional 25 per cent anticipating a surplus.

"Several southern and Peace River districts are now facing shortages of one or more types of feed or straw," says Mr. Dlugos. Some areas are already bringing feed in from surrounding regions, and in a few cases, from Manitoba and Saskatchewan. A further 25 per cent of the respondents may fall short of feed or straw this winter if weather conditions are

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Harvest and feed situation (cont'd)

worse than normal. The largest surpluses of fodder, straw and grain are found in the northwest region.

For more information on this survey contact: Rodney Dlugos, statistics branch, Alberta Agriculture, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6, Telephone: 427-4011.

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Contact:

Rodney Dlugos
427-4011

December 16, 1985

For immediate release

Farm pouch calendars back by popular demand

Alberta's Agriculture's Save-All Management Planning Calendar is back for 1986 by popular demand.

After five years of success, the cancellation of the innovative "pouch calendar" caused considerable distress in the farming community. However, thanks to financial support from several commercial sponsors, this valuable farm management tool will return to Alberta farm homes.

Maggie Lamb, of the farm business management branch at Olds, says not only did the sponsors provide funding but they also supplied artwork and reminders. The sponsors of the calendar were: Acklands; Alberta Agriculture's Financial Management Initiatives Program; Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch; Calgary Exhibition and Stampede; Cyanamid Canada Inc.; Fairview College; Nova, An Alberta Corporation; Treasury Branches and West Edmonton Mall.

Many farm families and district extension staff made a special effort to bring back the calendars, says Mrs. Lamb. They expressed their need for the calendar as a useful organizational tool when well-kept records are more important than ever.

The Save-All Management Planning Calendar is unique because of its monthly pouch, durability and space for daily reminders. All important papers can be stored in the removable pocket which is designed to fit easily into a filing system. A vital step to an effective record

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Farm pouch calendars back by popular demand (cont'd)

keeping system, the pouch can be used to keep farm records, letters and invoices in one place. After sorting at the end of the month, simply tear off the pouch, fold over the flap, record all the important farm papers you decide to keep and file in a filing cabinet (or apple box). At the end of the year, all your paper for one year is at your fingertips.

The calendar is an excellent organizer and general aid to promoting better farm management practices. Limited quantities of these calendars are available free to Alberta farm families on a first come, first served basis from local Alberta Agriculture district offices.

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Contact:

Maggie Lamb
556-4238 or RITE 154-1238

December 16, 1985

For immediate release

Feeding frost damaged canola seed to pigs

Poor growing conditions this year have resulted in large quantities of frost damaged canola seed that are not acceptable to crushing plants. However, Sam Jaikaran, Alberta Agriculture's monogastric nutritionist says that reject canola seed may be fed profitably to market hogs weighing 60 to 220 pounds.

Feeding trials at the University of Saskatchewan have shown that frost damaged canola seed is well digested when it is ground and included in diets of feeder pigs at levels of up to 20 per cent. Whole seed in the diet is poorly digested and pelleting of feeds containing ground canola seed gave only a very small improvement in energy digestibility. The inclusion of ground seed in diets already containing canola meal gave growth performance in market hogs similar to diets containing soybean meal.

Frost damaged canola seed contains a large percentage of oil which, although useful to livestock, may present problems in grinding. For example, the University of Saskatchewan trials showed that seed samples containing 20, 45 and 65 per cent frost damaged seed contained approximately 35, 27 and 22 per cent oil, respectively. The grinding problem was overcome by blending canola seed 50:50 with barley before grinding.

Limited research with sows has indicated that reproductive performance may be impaired if the seed is not heat treated before feeding. Therefore, the feeding of frozen canola seed to sows should be avoided.

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Feeding frost damaged canola seed to pigs (cont'd)

"Before feeding frost damaged canola seed, have it feed tested so that it can be formulated correctly into the diet," says Mr. Jaikaran. The protein content of frost-damaged canola seed varies from 18 to 21 per cent, and based on its nutritional value, it may be worth from 20 to 50 per cent more than good barley.

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Contact:

Sam Jaikaran
436-9150

December 16, 1985

For immediate release

Manage your savings bond investments

Canadians are known to be some of the most "savings-minded" people in the world. However, many of us are notorious for not "minding the store" when it comes to managing savings bond investments, says Doug Barlund, financial management economist with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch.

Thousands of Canadians are losing millions of dollars in interest payments from more than $180 million in matured Canada Savings Bonds which have been put into the Federal Treasury, according to Bank of Canada officials.

More than 475,000 Canada Savings Bonds, some dating back to 1946, have not been cashed even though they are no longer earning interest. Uncashed savings bonds are put into the federal government's consolidated revenue fund. Ottawa can then invest or spend the bonds as it wishes.

November 1 is the day of the year that Canada Savings Bonds mature or cease to collect any more interest. If you hold Canada Savings Bonds of series 28, 31 or 33, these all have matured as of November 1, 1985. They would have been issued in 1973, 1976 and 1978, respectively.

If you think you have any of these series of bonds stashed away, dig them out and examine them closely. Providing they are the old style bonds with coupons attached, you may be eligible for specific cash bonuses, if the coupons have not been clipped from the bond.

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Manage your savings bond investments (cont'd)

As an example, series 28 bonds issued in 1973 and maturing November 1, 1985 will pay a cash bonus of $482.70 for every $1,000 in principal. Also, if the top left-hand corner of the bond has not been clipped, you are eligible for an interim cash bonus of $205 that has been payable since November 1, 1979 for every $1,000 in principal.

In addition, if none of the annual interest coupons have been clipped, you are entitled to $1,395 in back interest. Combine that with the $1,000 original principal and the two cash bonuses and you have a bond that is worth $3,082.70.

"The point is, don't let these investments get stagnant," says Mr. Barlund. "If they have matured, these bonds should be cashed in and the money put to work again.

If you discover you have an uncashed bond, don't expect to receive any of the investment interest the government has earned since the bond matured. The bonds are payable on demand, but they do not provide interest beyond the maturity date of the bond, regardless of when it matured.

The Bank of Canada tries to reunite individuals with their bonds whenever possible but the process is costly and time-consuming. An advertising campaign is conducted every October that points out that a new series of bonds are on the market and indicates which series have matured.

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Manage your savings bond investments (cont'd)

Make it a habit to check your savings investment portfolio and review it at least annually to determine if you are getting the interest that is due. Make a list of all your savings investments noting where they are located, rates of return and maturity dates and file it where you can review it annually. By filing bonds away in a dusty corner and neglecting them you are penalizing yourself for taking the initiative to develop a savings plan in the first place.

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Contact:

Doug E. Barlund
556-4240

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December 16, 1985

For immediate release

4-H leaders inducted

Reg Grey

Dorothy Schnell

Bill Palmer

Three 4-H leaders have been inducted into the Alberta 4-H Hall of Fame.

The trio, representing 64 years of 4-H leadership, were honored at the 1985 Provincial 4-H Leaders Conference on November 23 in Red Deer. The induction ceremony took place in the presence of about 350 leaders during a banquet which ended the three-day meeting.

Inducted were Dorothy Schnell of Castor, 18-year leader of several 4-H clubs in the Castor area; Bill Palmer of Medicine Hat, a club leader and 4-H council member for 22 years; and Reg Gray of Sherwood Park, 24-year leader of the East Edmonton 4-H Dairy Club.

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4-H leaders inducted (cont'd)

Mrs. Schnell has served on the Coronation 4-H district council, the east-central 4-H regional council, and as a member of the provincial 4-H council since 1977. A keen supporter of the 4-H multi-project club concept and 4-H communications programs, she was also a member of the Order of Eastern Star, the United Church Women, the Agricultural Society, and the Continuing Education Council in her community.

Mr. Palmer was a member of the Medicine Hat 4-H Dairy Club from 1963-70. He was a member of the southeast Alberta 4-H council since 1969, the southern regional 4-H council since 1970, and the provincial 4-H council since 1983. He was instrumental in establishing a camping facility at Cypress Hills Provincial Park, has supported communication programs, and was a founding organizer of an annual color night recognizing 4-H members and leaders in the Medicine Hat area. He has served as president of the Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede, the Medicine Hat Milk Foundation, Milk Producers, and the Bullshod Gas Co-op. He is also a member of the Municipal Planning Commission and Improvement District #1 council.

Mr. Gray was assistant leader of the East Edmonton 4-H Dairy Club in 1962. He has been club leader since 1963, has served on the Strathcona district 4-H council since 1963, held various executive positions including president, and was a member of the Northwest regional 4-H council since its conception in the same year. Mr. Gray has been an active supporter of many 4-H exchange programs, district and regional 4-H events, as well as the provincial 4-H dairy show. He is a charter member of the Strathcona Fish and Game Association, president of the Colchester Agricultural Society, and has served as an elder in the Salisbury United Church.

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4-H leaders inducted (cont'd)

The induction of these three leaders brings to 21 the number of installed in the Alberta 4-H Hall of Fame since the program began in 1971. It is only the second time that three leaders have been honored at one time.

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Contact:

Elton Dunk
427-2541

December 16, 1985

For immediate release

Farm management economist appointed

Garth Nickorick has been appointed farm management economist with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch at Olds. The appointment which was effective December 9, 1985, was announced by J. Wilson Loree, branch head.

In his new position, Mr. Nickorick will identify, develop and evaluate planning aids and information related to machinery, custom rates, land, livestock and crop economics.

Mr. Nickorick worked as a loans officer with Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation (AADC) since 1982 and as a credit advisor with the Farm Credit Corporation.

He graduated from the University of Saskatoon in 1981 with a B.Sc. in agricultural economics.

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Contact:

Garth Nickorick
556-4247

December 16, 1985

For immediate release

Stettler has new district agriculturist

Rob Dunn has been appointed district agriculturist at Red Deer. The September 1 appointment was announced by Alan Hall, director for Alberta Agriculture's north-central region.

Raised in the Calgary area, Mr. Dunn graduated in 1980 from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. in agriculture majoring in animal science. He has spent the last four years working in research and as an area agrologist with Monsanto.

"He has spent the last three years in Stettler in this capacity so brings with him an excellent knowledge and understanding of the area," says Mr. Hall.

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Contact:

Rob Dunn
742-4481

AGRI-NEWS

Best Wishes for Christmas
and the New Year
from the staff of
Alberta Agriculture's
Information Services Division

December 23, 1985

For immediate release

This Week

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Removing stains from fabrics 13

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December 23, 1985

For immediate release

Safety at Christmas time

Accidents occur throughout the year. But the chances of them happening at Christmas time may be heightened by the pressures of the season. If you're rushed, stressed and tired, you don't always take time to check on crucial safety factors.

The prime fire hazard is the Christmas tree, which, if dry and ignited (by candles or faulty wiring), can explode within 30 seconds. When buying a tree, make sure the needles are pliable, have full color and a fresh smell. Once the tree is home, keep it in the coolest place possible, or outdoors, until ready to trim. Then, cut about two inches off the bottom on the bias and secure the tree in a stand that holds at least gallon of water; a cut tree can consume two pints to a gallon of water a day.

Buy Christmas lights with the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) sticker on the cord. Replace lights with frayed cords, cracked plugs, loose sockets or bare wire, or those that twinkle when they're not supposed to. Make sure the replacements are the right kind and voltage.

Make sure your outside lights are weatherproofed. Use only insulated staples or hooks from the hardware store to hold strings in place -- not nails or tacks. Hang lights with the bulb pointing downward.

If you buy an artificial tree, bear in mind what the tree is made of before you illuminate it. Fake trees can be made from petroleum-based materials as well as from electricity-conducting metal. Petroleum-based trees can be decorated with lights approved by the CSA, but colored floodlights, not a string of lights, should be used to illuminate metallic trees.

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December 23, 1985

For immediate release

The poinsettia

The poinsettia is Alberta's most popular Christmas pot plant, says Betty Vladicka of the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre. About 120,000 of them are produced locally for the Christmas season.

The poinsettia was introduced to the United States in 1825 by Joel Poinsett, the American ambassador to Mexico. The plants were first used at Christmas time during the 17th century in Mexico by Franciscan priests who used them in their Nativity festivals.

The poinsettia is a deciduous shrub that is native to Mexico. It often reaches a height of three metres. The "flower" consists of small inconspicuous yellow flowers at the center, surrounded by large colorful bracts. Many cultivars are now available in red, pink, cream or marbled.

When blossoming, a poinsettia should be kept in a sunny, draft-free location. The blossoms will last several months if the temperature is kept fairly cool -- not above 22° C during the day and not below 16°C at night. Allow the soil to dry out between waterings, and then give the plant a thorough soaking, advises Ms. Vladicka. Never leave it standing in water however.

When the flowers begin to fade, cut the stems back to 15-20 centimetres. The plant should be kept relatively dry and stored in a cool, dark location until the new growth appears. When the new leaves start to develop place the plant in a bright location with a temperature of 16°C - 19°C, and fertilize it regularly with a complete water soluble fertilizer.

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The poinsettia (cont'd)

A poinsettia plant can be put out in the garden after the danger of frost is over. It is advisable to leave it in the pot, but check to make sure that it has enough room for root growth. If there is not enough room, put it in a larger pot in a soil mix that drains well. To get a fuller plant and to prevent it from getting too tall, pinch it back during the growing season and bring it indoors when night temperatures are around 10°C.

To get the plant to bloom again, you must carefully control the number of hours of total darkness the plant receives everyday. It needs 14 hours of uninterrupted darkness each night, starting October 1, for about 40 days or until the bracts start to show color. Any light will disturb the flowering cycle and prevent the development of the flowers and bracts, and a temperature of more than 19°C may delay or prevent bud setting.

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Contact:

Betty Vladicka
973-3351

December 23, 1985

For immediate release

How to control holiday spending

It's easier than ever before to slide into debt during the holiday season because of the widespread use of credit cards and so many tempting new items on the market.

Since January can be gloomy enough without facing a lot of bills, Jean Wilson, Alberta Agriculture's family resource management specialist, has these tips on how to plan a debt-free Christmas. "Although you may not be able to use all of these ideas right now, keep them in mind for next Christmas," she says.

Consider your Christmas list carefully. Set a limit on what you can afford to spend on each gift. Think of a few suitable suggestions for each person and write them down beside their name. Estimate how much the gift will cost and where you can buy it.

Start your shopping early before the stores are jammed. The selection of goods is better, clerks have more time to answer questions, and you can compare prices between stores without feeling desperate. "Panic buying during the last days before Christmas is almost certain to sabotage your budget," says Ms. Wilson.

Convince yourself that it's all right to say "no". Children readily accept the fact that they can't have everything they see on television. The thought just needs a little reinforcing.

Go on an austerity program in November. Cut costs everywhere possible and eat simple meals to gear up to the December feasting. You could take a long, hard look at the Christmas dinner menu, stock up on supplies gradually or cut a few things out. This might help the food bill breathe a little easier.

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How to control holiday spending (cont'd)

Give gifts from the kitchen. Friends and relatives receive presents of homemade fruitcake, cookies, jams and pickles very happily. For an added touch, include a copy of the recipe.

Keep track of holiday spending this year, and you'll have an idea of how much money next year's festivities will cost. Put a little money into an interest-earning savings account each month and be all set to pay cash for Christmas next year.

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Contact:

Jean Wilson
427-2412

December 23, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta turkey for Christmas

With Christmas swiftly approaching, it's time to think about choosing the turkey for your special dinner.

Linda St. Onge, food and nutrition specialist with Alberta Agriculture, says several grades are usually available. Canada A turkeys are normally-formed, well-fleshed and fattened. Canada B birds are not as well fattened and may have minor imperfections such as a slightly crooked keel bone. Canada utility must qualify for at least Grade B, but one or more parts may be missing, or there might be skin tears. However, there won't be any significant differences in tenderness or flavor, says Ms. St. Onge.

For a premium price, you can buy turkeys with pop-up indicators for doneness, or birds which have been injected with butter or vegetable oil to make them "self-basting". Proper cooking and regular basting will give you the same result at less cost.

If you buy a fresh turkey, store it, loosely covered, in the coldest part of the refrigerator, and cook it within three days of purchase. A frozen turkey can be stored for a year. To thaw, leave the turkey in its original wrapper and thaw in the refrigerator, allowing 10 hours per kilogram. See the chart below for approximate times. If refrigerator space is not available, wrap the turkey in a heavy towel or several paper bags. The insulation will help prevent the outside of the turkey from reaching room temperature when the inside is still frozen solid. Once thawed, the turkey must be cooked immediately or refrigerated. Never leave it sitting at room temperature.

(cont'd)

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"Stuffing can be prepared and refrigerated ahead of time, but don't put it into the turkey until just before cooking," advises Ms. St. Onge. Allow about 1/2 cup of stuffing per pound (250 mL per kg). Rinse the cavity, pat dry, stuff, and truss the neck opening shut. Place the turkey breast side up on a rack in a shallow pan. Brush with melted fat or oil. You may want to wrap the wing tips with foil to prevent overbrowning. Roast at 160°C (325°F). Baste frequently with the pan drippings -- about every half hour or so; more frequently towards the end of the cooking time. Or, you may choose to cover the turkey loosely with foil, which can be removed during the last half hour to allow for browning. Use a meat thermometer to test for doneness -- it should register 70°C (160°F) when inserted into the stuffing; or about 85°C (185°F) in the thigh. See the chart below for approximate times.

For safety's sake, never leave your turkey sitting at room temperature. As soon as the meal is served, remove the stuffing and place it and the remaining turkey in the refrigerator. It will keep three to four days. To enjoy meals later, you might like to freeze pieces of the turkey. Remove the meat from the bones. Wrap in plastic wrap, then foil or other freezer wrap. Use within three months for best flavor. As a finale, cover all the bones and skin with cold water in a large pot. Simmer gently for several hours, then strain the resulting broth to make a delicious soup!

(cont'd)

Alberta turkey for christmas (cont'd)

Reference chart for turkey -- how much, how long

Size	No. of 3 oz svgs.	Refrigerator thawing time	Approximate cooking time at 325°F
12 lb (5.5 kg)	25	2¼ days	4 3/4 to 5 1/2 hr
16 lb (7.25 kg)	34	3 days	5 1/4 to 6 hr
20 lb (9 kg)	42	3 3/4 days	5 3/4 to 6 1/2 hr
24 lb (11 kg)	50	4 1/2 days	6 1/4 to 7 hr

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Contact:

Linda St. Onge
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December 23, 1985

For immediate release

How to make your Christmas tree last longer

If a tree is freshly cut a few weeks before Christmas, it can be expected to keep its green appearance and retain its pleasing fragrance throughout the holiday season.

Here are some tips on how to make your Christmas tree last longer from Betty Vladicka of the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre.

Buy the most recently cut tree you can find. Of the tree species commonly used as Christmas trees, the scots pine is the most resistant to drying and dropping of needles. The next most resistant trees are Douglas fir, white pine, balsam fir and the spruces including Colorado, white, black and Norway in that order.

To help restore the internal moisture content of a Christmas tree when you bring it into the house, cut 1 to 2.5 cm off the base of the stem. This procedure allows the tree to absorb large quantities of water by removing the natural resin which clogs the water-conducting tissues. Put the tree in a stand that holds at least one litre of water. Keep the container full of water and place the tree away from heating outlets when possible.

According to information from Michigan State University's department of forestry, commonly used fire retardants contain borates which may discolor the foliage of the tree if they are absorbed. It is almost impossible to fire-proof a dry Christmas tree, and at the same time maintain its natural appearance. The best way to prevent Christmas tree fires is to make sure the tree is fresh and green by following the previously mentioned steps.

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How to make your Christmas tree last longer (cont'd)

"Purchasing a nursery grown tree with balled roots, with the idea of planting it outside after Christmas, is not recommended for a climate like Alberta's," says Ms. Vladicka. It is too much of a shock to put a tree outside after it has been inside a warm house. The only time that it would be practical to buy a growing tree for Christmas would be if it were possible to carry it through the winter in an area where the temperature was cold but did not go below freezing.

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Betty Vladicka
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December 23, 1985

For immediate release

Food poisoning -- how to avoid it

The number of cases of food poisoning that doctors and hospitals deal with goes up at Christmas time.

Linda St. Onge, food and nutrition specialist with Alberta Agriculture, says its important to remember that bacteria grow rapdily in moist, low-acid foods (such as protein foods) when the temperature is between 4°C (40°F) to 60°C (140°F).

Here are some things to remember when preparing food during the holiday season to prevent food poisoning from occurring.

A prestuffed turkey on the counter is a breeding ground for salmonella bacteria. Proper refrigeration is important to prevent food poisoning. Make the stuffing ahead but refrigerate it and the bird separately until cooking time. After dinner, remove the stuffing from the turkey and pop them both right back into the fridge.

Eggnog can also harbor salmonella bacteria. If you make your own eggnog, be careful never to use cracked eggs because they may be contaminated. Refrigerate the eggnog as soon as it's made. Commercial eggnog is safer than the homemade variety because it's pasteurized. But in both cases, make sure you don't leave the eggnog unrefrigerated for more than two hours, says Ms. St. Onge.

(cont'd)

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Food poisoning -- how to avoid it (cont'd)

This holds true for hors d'oeuvres made, for example, from fish, meat, eggs or pate. If these are left out in a warm room for more than two hours they too can become contaminated. So can desserts using cream. Your best plan is to refrigerate them up to the moment they are served and then immediately afterward.

If you feel symptoms of food poisoning -- diarrhea, vomiting and stomach upset -- stay on clear fluids and avoid milk products (they're gas-forming) for 24 hours, and then seek medical help if you're still ill.

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Contact:

Linda St. Onge
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December 23, 1985

For immediate release

Removing stains from fabrics

The holiday season is a time for merriment and parties and it is also a time when things are likely to get spilled on clothes and other fabrics.

Here, from Bertha Eggertson, Alberta Agriculture's clothing and textile specialist, are the general procedures for removing stains on washable and unwashable fabrics.

Greasy Stains

To remove a greasy stain from a washable fabric treat the spot with a liquid detergent and launder. If any of the stain remains after the fabric has dried, sponge it with cleaning fluid. Use an appropriate bleach on any remaining yellow area.

An absorbent powder may be the next thing to use on some stains and fabrics. Absorbent powders include cornstarch, cornmeal, talcum powder, powdered chalk, soda salt, magnesia and fuller's earth. These powders will remove fresh stains such as those caused by grease spatters. They are safe for all fabrics but may not be satisfactory on dark colors because of the difficulty of completely brushing them out.

To apply an absorbent powder, lay the article flat and sprinkle the powder on the stain. Brush it off as it becomes discolored and repeat the procedure until the stain has gone.

Non-Greasy Stains

To remove a non-greasy stain from a washable fabric, sponge or rinse the stained area before laundering the article because laundering the article may set the stain. Work in a liquid detergent and rinse. If any stain remains, use an appropriate bleach.

(cont'd)

Removing stains from fabrics (cont'd)

To remove a non-greasy stain from an unwashable fabric, sponge it with cool water if the water will not hurt it. Fabrics that waterspot should be dry cleaned. If some stain remains after the fabric has been sponged, work in a liquid detergent and rinse. A final sponging with alcohol will help to remove the detergent and the fabric will dry faster. However, before using alcohol on a fabric, the fabric should be tested to see if the color is affected. Dilute the alcohol with two parts of water before using it on an acetate.

Combination Stains

To remove the non-greasy portion of a combination stain, sponge or rinse it with cool water, providing that the fabric is not an unwashable one that will waterspot. Work in a detergent, rinse it out and allow the fabric to dry. Repeat this treatment if necessary. If a colored stain remains, use an appropriate bleach. Fabrics that waterspot should be sent to a reliable drycleaner.

Information on removing specific stains on washable and unwashable fabrics is contained in table form in a publication entitled *Spot and Stain Removal*. This publication also tells you how to remove stains from rugs, carpets, mattresses, suede, leather, upholstery and wallpaper.

Spot and Stain Removal, Homedex 1650, can be obtained from district home economists and the Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Contact:

Bertha Eggertson
427-2412

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AGRI-NEWS

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JAN 20 1986

December 23, 1985 (Part 2)

For immediate release

This Week

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AGRICULTURE
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December 23, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta Beekeepers Assistance Program announced

On December 12, 1985 Alberta Agriculture Minister LeRoy Fjordbotten announced a $1,725,000 one-time only assistance program for registered beekeepers in Alberta.

The Alberta Beekeepers Assistance Program is intended to provide per hive assistance to registered beekeepers in recognition of production losses experienced in 1985.

"This year, our province's honey producers have suffered major production losses due to a wide range of conditions beyond their control, including drought and other weather related problems," said Mr. Fjordbotten.

Under the Alberta Beekeepers Assistance Program, eligible honey producers can receive a one-time only payment of $15 per hive. There is no maximum hive limit, however, there is a 100-hive deductible.

Honey producers who were registered with Alberta Agriculture as of May 15, 1985 are eligible to receive the $15 per hive payment. The payment each producer receives will reflect the hive count as registered on May 15, less 100 hives.

"Alberta's honey industry is important to our agricultural economy," said Mr. Fjordbotten. "Our producers account for approximately 30 per cent of Canada's honey production, and produce the finest quality honey to be found anywhere."

Application forms for the Alberta Beekeepers Assistance Program are being developed and will be distributed to eligible registered producers early in 1986.

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Contact:

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December 23, 1985

For immediate release

Special warrant approved for Alberta Pork Producers Debt Retirement Grant

The provincial cabinet has approved a special warrant for $5,547,225 to fund the Alberta Pork Producers Debt Retirement Grant as announced July 5, 1985.

The intention of the government's grant offer was to relieve Alberta pork producers of their debt related to the purchase of Fletchers Fine Foods Ltd. in 1981.

The net effect of the grant would be to improve producer returns by $2 per hog by eliminating a $2 per hog levy being charged by the Alberta Pork Producers Marketing Board to reduce the debt incurred by producers in the Fletchers' purchase.

The grant will now be paid to the Alberta Pork Producers Marketing Board on behalf of producers. The board's delegate body recently agreed to accept the Alberta government offer.

At the time of the July 5 announcement, the value of the grant was estimated at $5.1 million, but the final figure to be granted was to be the actual balance owing at June 30, 1985 on the loan for the Fletchers' purchase. Since then, detailed calculations have placed the actual debt level as of June 30, 1985 at $5,547,225.

As indicated in the July 5 announcement, if the government offer was accepted, the board would be required to eliminate the $2 per hog levy paid by hog producers to retire the Fletchers' loan. The board has complied with this condition by filing a regulation, AR 365/85, on November 25, 1985 reducing the $3 per hog levy to $1.

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Contact:

Jim Armet
Executive Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture
427-2137

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December 30, 1985

For immediate release

This Week

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December 30, 1985

For immediate release

Highlights of the 1984 cow-calf production cost study

The production and resource economics branch of Alberta Agriculture has completed the 1984 cost of production study involving crop-cow-calf farms in the Vermilion and Barrhead regions. Thirty-six farms participated in this two-stage analysis.

Lloyd Andruchow, an agricultural economist with the branch, says the first stage examined the production costs of the main crop enterprises on the farm (barley, oats, hay, silage, pasture, straw, etc.). In the second stage, these costs were used to value home-grown feeds used in the cattle enterprises as opposed to using market value for such feeds " This approach was used mainly to observe the cash flow requirements for the cow-calf enterprise, " says Mr. Andruchow.

While the returns over cash costs per cow were positive in both locations, total production costs exceeded returns in both the Vermilion and the Barrhead region.

Farms in the Vermilion and Barrhead regions with less than 100 cows sold lighter calves and received lower returns to capital than farms with larger numbers of cows and heavier stock. The additional returns on the larger farms more than offset the additional costs, resulting in a higher return over cash costs for the larger farms As to covering all production costs, the large farms also had lower losses per cow than smaller farms.

The study farms were further grouped into two selling weight classes -- those that sold calves of less than 750 pounds and those with calves of 750 pounds and over In both

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Highlights of the 1984 cow-calf production cost study (cont'd)

regions, farms selling the heavier calves experienced returns over cash costs that were three times greater than those reported by the farms selling calves under 750 pounds. The more favorable cost-to-income ratio observed for the farms selling heavier stock can be attributed to cost advantages in replacing breeding stock from within the operation, their large size and the significant use of greenfeed and silage as an alternative to hay.

For further information on this study contact: Lloyd Andruchow, production and resource economics branch, Alberta Agriculture, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6, telephone 427-4001.

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Contact:

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427-4001

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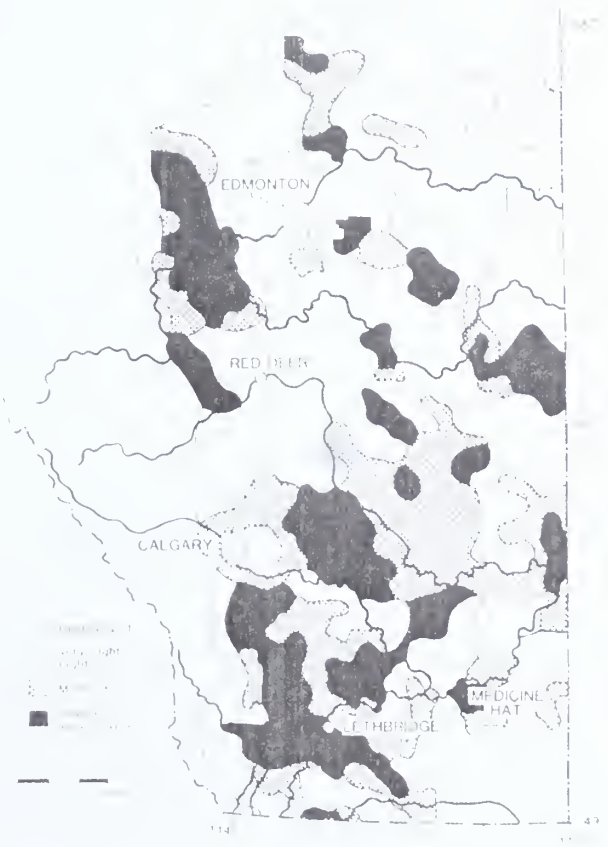
December 30, 1985

For immediate release

1986 grasshopper forecast released



The grasshopper forecast map indicates areas containing large numbers of grasshoppers in late July and early August.

Dr. Dan Johnson, a rangeland insect research scientist at the Lethbridge Research Station, has released the 1986 grasshopper forecast. "The good news," said Dr. Johnson, "is that we anticipate less than half the 1985 level of infestation. The bad news is the areas rated high-risk are more widely distributed than last year."

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1986 grasshopper forecast released (cont'd)

The grasshopper outbreak that has plagued southern Alberta since 1983 has been slowed by cool, wet weather which prevailed last August during the grasshoppers' breeding and egg-laying period. As a result, only 40 eggs per square metre have been tallied in late 1985 compared with over 100 the previous year. The annual grasshopper egg survey is conducted by the Lethbridge Research Station in cooperation with the Alberta Agriculture and municipal agriculture service board fieldmen.

The grasshopper forecast map indicates areas containing large numbers of grasshoppers in late July and early August. Unless spring weather is cool and wet, the dark areas rated 'severe and very severe' could experience serious infestations. "Grasshopper hatch in these areas could be high," said Dr. Johnson, "and spraying may be required, especially if the weather is warm and sunny in late May and early June." However, since the actual number of grasshoppers in 1986 is expected to be down by one-third, fewer areas are expected to require spraying with an insecticide than last year.

The forecast map will be updated in late March provided that additional surveys of grasshopper egg pods can be carried out.

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Contact:

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December 30, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta Pork Seminar - January 15 to 17, 1986

"Innovative production for lean times" is the theme of the 1986 Alberta Pork Seminar scheduled for January 15 to 17, 1986 in Banff.

The seminar is a cooperative effort of Alberta Agriculture, the Alberta Pork Producers Marketing Board, the University of Alberta and the Western Hog Growers' Association. It is designed for participants who are interested in improving their knowledge and decision making abilities with respect to pork production.

Featuring internationally recognized speakers, the seminar will be of interest to hog producers, researchers, agribusiness service and supply representatives, extension and education specialists and anyone interested in the latest pork production and technology information. Some of the topics that will be covered during the three-day program are feeding and management of the gilt, pregnant sow, lactating sow and the post weaning sow; feed modifiers; herd health problems; national pork promotion; the role of producers in research; liquid feeding systems; feeding sprouted grain; and innovative breeding practices (embryo transfer, genetics).

The course registration fee before January 3 is $110 per person and $170 per couple; after January 3 it is $120 per person and $195 per couple.

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Alberta Pork Seminar - January 15 to 17, 1986 (cont'd)

The course registration fee does not include accommodation costs. Registrants should plan to stay at the Banff Centre where the daily rates includes room and meals. The cost is $64 single or $52 (per person) double per day.

For detailed program information please call Val Smyth at (403) 432-2406.

To register by telephone call Sheila at (403) 432-3029.

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Contact:

Val Smyth
432-2406

December 30, 1985

For immediate release

Dr. Warren Evans to speak at Alberta Horse Breeders Conference

Dr. Warren Evans, a Texas A & M professor and an experienced horseman, will be the feature speaker at the third annual Alberta Horse Breeders Conference at the Capri Centre in Red Deer January 18 and 19, 1986.

Dr Evans, formerly of the University of California at Davis, has spent many years researching the reproductive physiology of the mare. He moved to Texas A & M in the summer of 1985 to continue his research interests Dr. Evans will address the subject "Managing Maiden and Barren Mares".

Fourteen other internationally acclaimed speakers will speak at the two-day conference. Dr. E. Macomber from Centralia, Washington is a member of the American Association of Equine Practitioners committee on pre-purchase examinations. He will discuss pre-purchase examinations for different classes of horses and where a seller's and purchaser's responsibility lies.

Ron Palelek of Vantage, Washington is a well-established trainer and breeder of Arabian horses His topic, "Managing a Show and Breeding Farm for Profit", will interest Arabian breeders

Roy Browning of Fort Worth, Texas is one of the top breeders of Quarter horses in the world. His young stallion "Easily Smashed" is probably the most successful juvenile sire of

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Dr. Warren Evans to speak at Alberta Horse Breeders Conference (cont'd)

running Quarter horses. "The Ole Man" a successful stallion for many years, has been the backbone of Browning's breeding farm. Mr. Browning will discuss how to be successful in the Quarter horse breeding business.

The conference will conclude with a panel discussion of "Crooked Legged Foals – where they come from and what can be done about them." Heading the panel will be Dr. Nadia Cymbaluk of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, whose research includes nutrition and its effect on limb problems.

The conference is for the breeder who is serious about breeding and marketing horses. The speakers who are some of the most respected in the world, contribute to the horse industry in many ways.

For registration information, contact Les Burwash at the Alberta Horse Breeders Conference Office, #205, 2003 McKnight Boulevard N.E., Calgary, T2E 6L2, telephone 291-4596 (Calgary) or Bob Coleman, 427-8905 (Edmonton).

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Contact:

Les Burwash 291-4596 or Bob Coleman 427-8905

December 30, 1985

For immediate release

Watch for damage from stored grain insects

"If you had a pail of 9000 one-dollar bills hanging in your grain bin, how often would you check it?" That's the question Michael Dolinski of Alberta Agriculture's crop protection branch asks producers to prompt them to watch for damage from stored grain insects.

Although he admits the potential for damage this winter is low because the harvested grain went into the bins cold, farmers still need to ensure that their grain is not heating. "If it remains cold and there is no spoilage from molds or fungi, there shouldn't be a problem," says Mr. Dolinski. "There have been, however, some reports from farmers of grain that has been heating."

Mr. Dolinski says that about one-third of all granaries have a low residual level of insect infestation, but as long as grain is kept below 15°C (60 F) it will be too cold for these insects to multiply. If grain starts to heat up as a result of molds and fungi, the grain beetles will multiply very quickly.

Fumigation of the grain beetles will not terminate the heating when it's caused by mold growth. Therefore, the only solution is to cool grain by turning it -- as quickly as possible to as low a temperature as possible. Unfortunately, unless the insects are killed by cooling, the infestation will have been distributed throughout the total volume. If the grain is to be sold the insects must be destroyed by fumigation. There are, however, restrictions against fumigating at temperatures below 5°C.

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Watch for damage from stored grain insects (cont'd)

Mr. Dolinski says this leaves farmers with three options:

1. feed the grain to livestock without controlling beetles
2. wait until the grain starts warming in the spring and fumigate prior to shipping
3. turn the grain and fumigate it on the first turning if it is infested, and when the temperature is likely to be above 5°C.

For best results, fumigation should be done in as tight a grain bin as possible. Also, before purchasing a fumigant containing phosphine (Gastoxin, Phostoxin), farmers will require a permit number from either the local agricultural fieldman or Alberta Environment.

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Contact:

Mike Dolinski
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December 30, 1985

For immediate release

Former 4-H beef club member receives scholarship

Lyle Younger of Myrnam is the 1985 recipient of the World of Beef and Stockman's Recorder scholarship for $500.

Lyle was a member of the Northminster 4-H Beef Club, the Myrnam 4-H beef club, the Two Hills Outdoors Club and the Fort Saskatchewan 4-H Beef Club. He was a member of the Premier's Award Group in 1982.

Lyle is currently a member of both the 4-H Alumni and the Rural Education and Development Association Alumni (R.E.D.A.) He was a staff member at R.E.D.A. youth seminars in 1984 and 1985. Richard Stringham, the director of youth and community services for R.E.D.A. says, "Lyle has delivered a session on agriculture and a session on environmental awareness that held participants spellbound."

Lyle is taking his first year of agriculture at Lakeland College.

The World of Beef and Stockman's Recorder scholarship is awarded annually, based on 4-H achievement and leadership involvement, to candidates who show an interest in raising, showing and fitting livestock.

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Former 4-H beef club member receives scholarship (cont'd)

For more information on 4-H scholarships, contact your regional 4-H specialist, district home economist or the 4-H branch of Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton

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Contact:

Elizabeth Webster

427-2541

December 30, 1985

For immediate release

AADC appoints regional manager

Peter K. Nielsen has been appointed regional manager with Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation (AADC) at Airdrie. He will be responsible for the delivery of AADC credit programs and counselling services in the Airdrie region.

The appointment which was effective December 9, 1985 was announced by Randy Niven, AADC manager of field services at Camrose.

Mr. Nielsen graduated from the University of Alberta in 1974 with a B Sc. in agriculture majoring in plant and animal science He has worked as a district agriculturist in Coronation, St. Paul and Bonnyville, and as a farm advisor for the Saddle Lake Band. Since 1981 Mr. Nielsen has worked with AADC as a loans officer.

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Contact:

Peter Nielsen
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December 30, 1985

For immediate release

District agriculturist is transferred to Wainwright

Jerome Manchur has been transferred to Alberta Agriculture's Wainwright office as district agriculturist. The October 21 appointment was announced by Ralph Berkan, regional director at Vermilion.

Mr. Manchur was raised on a mixed farm in the Camrose area. He graduated from the University of Alberta in 1976 with a B.Sc. in agriculture. He obtained a Masters degree in agriculture in 1984.

From January 1980 until his present appointment, Mr. Manchur was the district agriculturist at Ryley. Prior to that he owned and operated a grain farm at Fairview and worked as a farm management instructor.

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Contact:

Jerome Manchur
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